

NOGOA MACKENZIE IRRIGATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 13 August 2014

Held: Emerald Golf Club Meeting Room

Meeting Opened: 9:00 am

Present: Robert Ingram, Neville Brownlie, Nigel Burnett, Neek Morawitz, Matthew Barnes, Les Fluerty, Paul Wortley, Annette Smith, Ross Burnett, Colin Bendall, Olga Kakourakis, Neil Farrell & Donna Lewis (scribe)

Apologies: Peter Galea, Christopher Ryan, Cam Geddes, Kev Bickhoff.

1. Previous Minutes: As circulated

2. Business Arising from Previous Meeting:

2.1 Peak Flow Product

- Letter from M+K Lawyers was discussed. This is a legal matter being handled by SunWater legal team. Response will be sent to M+K with copy to members of the IAC.
- Resolution: IAC agrees that all customers who have a peak flow entitlement can trade that entitlement in line with previous discussed guidelines. (This removed the previously proposed restriction on the size of the share that was able to be traded)

Moved by Les Fluerty, seconded by Robert Ingram Carried

The resolution above was made with the understanding by all members that although any customer may trade their peak flow share(subject to operational constraints) the share size traded must represent 100 % of the peak flow share size currently held and this product would not facilitate subdivision and subsequent trading of part peak flow share sizes.

2.2 Service Standards for Notification of Shutdowns

- Mail out to all Stock & Domestic. Meeting to be set up to discuss a modification of notification time for opportune shut-downs when rain events occur. Need to distinguish between opportune shutdown & planned shutdown events. Rain event of significance to be clarified. SunWater to prepare wording for planned changes. Colin Bendall advised the committee that it was important to consult with customers and ensure any changes to Service Standards did not adversely impact anyone's business. Tie all meetings together (including barbecue as discussed in workshop regarding Scheme Operations Opportunities for Improvement) – End of November.

2.3 Discussion was held in relation to obtaining 4 weeks' shutdowns as were held in in the early 2000's as this is more effective in controlling submerged weeds. One of the advantages is better water quality. The committee resolved that this was a matter for discussion at the shutdown shed meetings that are held to determine the date and duration of the annual maintenance shutdowns.

2.4 Yearly cost of slashing/weed control

- Neil gave update on costs of slashing/weed control.
- Discussed use of residual chemicals. SunWater has an approved list of chemicals. Neil to talk to SunWater environmental group about best chemicals.
- Discussion on taking into account the advantages of using local supplier for slashing/weed control. SunWater purchasing policy allows for this.

2.5 Meter repairs

- Irrigation area meter repairs are complete. Dethridge wheels repairs are almost complete. One meter on the river – waiting on parts.

2.6 Minutes on website

- Minutes from last meeting were published on net and a text sent to growers. All minutes are approved by the IAC chair prior to loading on the SunWater internet site, the committee discussed that this process should continue and it is not necessary for all IAC members to approve the minutes prior to uploading .

3. General Business

3.1 Update on Selma Pumps (Neil Farrell provided an update to the IAC as follows)

- Pump 1 has been re-bushed and shaft sleeves machined, pump is being re-installed. Pump 1 motor is at Capricorn Rewind Electrical Services and will be re-installed by the end of the month.
- Pump 2 has been checked and is available. Pump 2 Rotalk is unserviceable however can be operated manually.
- Pump 3 has been checked and is available. There are still some intermittent problems with the control system however this is being worked on in the 3rd week of August.
- Emerald Temporary Pump – Auto Electrician will be re-wiring this week. Radiator has arrived and will be fitted as soon as the electrical work has been completed. Pump can be installed when the dam reaches 46.52%.
- Bundaberg Temporary Pump – Motor has a large amount of water in sump. This will require draining and flushing. The pump will have to be disconnected and motor turned over by hand to ascertain condition. If pump is seized it may require new bearings. We do have spare bearings. This pump and motor has been transported to Emerald as an emergency back up only.
- The availability of Michelle bearings for the Selma pumps was questioned. SunWater don't have spare Michelle bearings – there are none available and they can only be rebuilt in England with a very long lead time. However the component of the Michelle bearing that wears out are the slippers. These can be rebuilt locally and this takes approximately a week. All pumps have three lifts available before the pump has to be pulled. A set of slippers will be rebuilt to have as spare. Scheme Operations Opportunities for Improvement
- Desilting of lined channel – various options were discussed. Matthew Barnes offered to trial use of a pump he owns.

3.2 New Business

- Bulk Water - Les Fluerty questioned the changes to Bulk Water handling. Who is the contact etc.? Currently Emerald is still taking orders. A transition plan to separate the Bulk Water and Irrigation area functions is being developed. The Storage Supervisor at (Fairbairn Dam) will be the local contact. Once the transition plan has been finalised customers on the river will be consulted and provided with new contact details. Bullring will continue to be Weemah serviced first and then river.
- Water Usage –Anyone who used their full water allocation are refused further access to water ordering and any over use must be corrected in line with SunWater's policy. Any customers who don't temporary transfer water in to reconcile their account are reported for unauthorised water usage to the Department Natural Resources and Mines. DNRM may prosecute or fine Irrigators who have exceeded their entitlement. SunWater staff have been directed not to accept water orders from customers who do not have allocation in their account under any circumstances.
- IAC members requested that if SunWater has AWMA in the area that they also inspect the St Helens gate to provide a costing to replace the current gates.
- Scheme Performance Discussion conducted with ideas from Staff and representatives from the IAC and the Interim Board. A set of actions and timelines were developed to implement scheme improvements. See Appendix A.

- 4. Meeting Closed: 12 noon
- 5. Next Meeting: Friday. 21st November.

Minutes Confirmed:

Chairperson - Robert Ingram

SunWater Manager

Date:

Date:

Attachment A

ENGAGEMENT

Action Item	Actioned by	Due date	Funding
Annual staff and customer BBQ programmed for towards the end of November	Sunwater	September 14 th 2014	BAU
Provide regular information regarding activity and maintenance on pumps	Sunwater	September 14 th 2014	BAU

EDUCATION / COMPLIANCE

Action item	Actioned by	Due date	Funding
Offer / provide customer training to enable electronic access to meter reading and account balances	Sunwater / IAC	November 14 th 2014 (TBC)	BAU
Education and enforcement of scheme rules and targets	Sunwater	Letter December 14 th 2014	BAU
Modify scheme rules and targets to allow opportune shut downs from rain events	Sunwater / IAC	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Ditto above – possibility of extending weed control shut down back to 4 weeks, alternate one to be for 4 weeks	Sunwater / IAC	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Ensure the channel is drained for the shut downs, rectify any low lying areas or high points that prevent draining.		Ongoing	BAU

OPERATIONS			
Action Item	Actioned by	Due date	Funding
Investigate options for what, if anything, AWMA and or green span could assist / change with channel control systems.	Sunwater	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Investigate alternative contractors for spraying and slashing at drains and channels to enable timing to be aligned with conditions	Sunwater	November 14 th 2014	BAU
Investigate options for desilting of poly lined channels (implementation subject to fund source)	Sunwater / IAC	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Current QCA allowance for maintaining drains and channels is insufficient, seek feedback from IAC	Sunwater / IAC	Current price path June 17 th 2015	NSP negotiation
Concerns with not having local scada expertise – offer Rubicon training to local electrical contractor (look at training 2 contractors to ensure pricing competition)	Sunwater (Seek stakeholder views)	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Formalise through the maintenance plan compulsory test running of Selma Pumps	Sunwater	Bi-monthly	BAU
SAFETY			
Action Item	Actioned by	Due date	Funding
House keeping – clean up day at depot	Sunwater	End of October 14 th 2014	BAU
Modify pump shed to enable vehicle access for loading portable equipment	Sunwater	June 15 th 2015	BAU
Review design of screens S2,S3 and S4 off takes to remove hazard when cleaning	Sunwater	Review March 15 th 2015 Mods December 15 th 2015	Annuity
Public safety – audit signs and escape ladders poly lined channel. Audit ladders also for deterioration	Sunwater	September 14 th 2014	BAU