

# NOGOA MACKENZIE IRRIGATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date: 21 May 2014**

**Meeting Opened: 9:30 am**

**Present:** Robert Ingram, Christopher Ryan, Neville Brownlie, Nigel Burnett, Neek Morawitz, Matthew Barnes, Les Fluerty, Paul Wortley, Neil Farrell & Donna Lewis (scribe)

**Apologies:** Paul Wortey

**1. Previous Minutes:** As circulated

**2. Business Arising from Previous Meeting:**

2.1 Shed Meeting for Channel Shut-downs was held 2 May 2014 at Emerald Town Hall Supper Room. Meeting included discussion on Peak Flow entitlement shares.

**3. General Business**

3.1 Draft Peak Flow Product 'Peak Flow Entitlement Sharing Rules' – Document was provided to members and discussion followed with particular focus on the items below.

- Minimum share size for trading 0.5 of one full farm share. – Les Fluerty raised whether to change to .1. It was noted that at the meeting on 2/5/14 everyone agreed to .5. All agreed to stay with .5.
- Advice on success or otherwise of application to be by SMS or Email to buyer and seller
- Grouping on outlets still a yearly process – or until formally notified otherwise. SunWater to organise form to go out
- Minimum period for trading of PFE is 1 month with a 10 business day application period.
- Inclusion of a clause on no disadvantage to existing PFE holders in a section should location of demand change. – In paragraph 2 of draft document.
- Application fee of \$30 to be applied to the buyers next quarterly water account (this is to cover SunWater's costs to administer this new product) – In General Product Rules (j).
- Discussion held on 'sleeper farms' water usage. Only people in that section can use the water. Water officers work out what water is available on the day.
- Approval of the draft Peak Flow Product document was given by consensus. Suggestion to be made to Colin Bendall that the application forms relating to Peak Flow Entitlement Sharing & Trading include the clause noted in (5) above, to ensure the person signing is undeniably aware of this clause. All agreed.

3.2 Service Standards for Notification of Shutdowns

- Need to organise a meeting with stock and domestic irrigators to discuss issues and talk about solutions. No changes to Service Standards until we talk to the stock and domestic. Before next IAC meeting send out nominations for representatives to attend– suggested zones. Neil to talk to Colin with regard the best way to organise this.

- 3.3 Excavator Work – Value for money. Also applies for slashing contract.
- We need to ensure we get value for money. SunWater will be sourcing a few quotes. Competitive tender process. Need to ensure we get a quote for the entire job not quote per hour. Current contractor does a great job however sometimes all that is required is an effective job.
  - SunWater’s procurement policy requires all procurement to be conducted in a competitive manner to obtain best value for money. The policy also provides the opportunity to give preference to local businesses to promote the Regional communities in which we operate. SunWater is currently renewing the SOA for plant and equipment hire and will be shortly going to the market for expressions of interest from suitable contractors. The SOA expression of interest request will be advertised in local newspapers as well as the Queensland Government Q-Tender website. The renewed SOA will allow for the engagement of contractors on a fixed priced contract for a package of work based on the agreed hourly rate. The SOA expression of interest process will ensure that SunWater can get access to the best value for money for contractors.
- 3.4 Timing of slashing needs to be considered. There were queries about the cost of slashing contract. Next meeting Neil is to advise IAC of the yearly cost of slashing/weed control.
- 3.5 Water meters – parts have been dispatched. Plan is for all meters to be working by peak season. Members expressed concern with the control of river water going to Brisbane/Bundaberg. We need to keep the running of the system locally.
- 3.6 Minutes of IAC meetings are to be emailed to irrigators to ensure transparency. Note to say any concern contact your representative. Subsequent to the meeting SunWater advised that the minutes can be placed on the website with an SMS to customers advising on availability.
- 3.7 Work to be done during shut-down – plan for future de-silting, inspect all gates etc.
- 4. Meeting Closed: 10:40am**
- 5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**