

NOGOA MACKENZIE IRRIGATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3rd February 2014

Meeting Opened: 10:10am

Present: Robert Ingram, Christopher Ryan, Neville Brownlie, Nigel Burnett, Neek Morawitz, Geoffrey Kavanagh, Les Fluerty, Paul Wortley, Phil Miller, Geoff Holm, Neil Farrell, Netty Smith (observer) & Donna Lewis (scribe)

Apologies: Nil

1. **Previous Minutes:** As circulated

2. **Business Arising from Meeting:**

2.1 **Unauthorised Usage**

- Discussion on current over use practices -Meters are read each quarter, breach notices issued and the irrigator has 21 days to respond plus 7 day leeway. Phil Miller advised that unauthorised use is taken off next year's allocation[#]. Neil Farrell advised that he had put in place a process so he is notified immediately of anyone going over water allocation. SunWater agreed to follow up on this matter.

#Since the meeting, the advice regarding taking unauthorised use off next year's allocation has been found to be incorrect. This practice has been discontinued since 2006. The current practice is to report unauthorised use to the Regulator.

SunWater has reviewed its unauthorised use policy. In summary, SunWater has adopted the following approach:

- *SunWater will decline water orders when it is discovered that an account has been overused – this is flagged in SunWater's BILL water ordering system.*
- *Customers will be immediately notified that they cannot take water until their account balance has been made positive - Temporary Transfer.*
- *Over usage is recorded and reported to the regulator as "Unauthorised Usage".*

Customers who are currently identified as being in breach of their allocation have been sent notices and appropriate action is being taken.

- Geoffrey Kavanagh tabled points for discussion about unmetered use. Concerns were raised regarding unmetered water usage and reporting to the Regulator. It was stated that at the moment this is open to manipulation and needs clear guidelines. SunWater agreed to follow up on this matter.

Since the meeting, SunWater has developed a water estimating policy and procedure. It is also reviewing a number of previous estimates of unmetered water use.

2.2 **Ruling on proposed future Forward Draw product for consideration**

Phil Miller tabled existing product rules for Forward Draw in Bundaberg, which have never been used. It was stated that the current Resource Operation Plan does include Forward Draws if approved in the scheme. However the draft Resource Operation Plan which is planned to come into effect from 1 July 2014 does not include Forward Draw.

Resolutions –

- Consensus reached not to allow Forward Draw this year.
- Submission on the draft Resource Operation Plan for Forward Draw to be kept in the ROPS to be completed by Robert Ingram before 14th February.

- SunWater to monitor water usage more closely and issue breach notices promptly. If necessary letters will be sent to irrigators advising they will be locked off.
- Phil Miller to investigate what has happened, talk to Tom Vanderbyl and get a recommendation moving forward. Irrigators will be notified accordingly.
- Phil Miller to make changes to the Bundaberg Product Approval model and present for discussion at the IAC meeting after Easter.

2.3 Rules on Peak Flow (Trading)

Draft of Product Approval for Peak Flow Entitlement Sharing Rules was tabled by SunWater. Lengthy discussion on wording and intention of document. 10days notice for transfer will cause operational problems for water officers. Motion – Leave wording for 2(a) giving a year's or indefinite notice.....Carried. Notifications need to be submitted by 30th September.

Resolutions -

- SunWater to distribute to irrigators a suitable form for requesting transfer for Peak Flow Entitlements.
- Phil Miller to make wording changes to Draft Product Approval for Peak Flow Entitlement Sharing Rules and send to IAC members.
- Robert Ingram to organise shed meeting to discuss the proposed draft with irrigators after Easter.

2.4 IQQM Model on Bedford Weir

Gordon Delaney from SunWater will give a presentation to the Local Management Interim Board on 11th February 2014. Netty Smith will send invitation to IAC to attend. See questions listed below.

2.5 Water saved from Channel Lining

This water has already gone up for lease. It is listed on the SunWater website. Question for Gordon Delaney on Tuesday. Geoff Kavanagh tabled information on original scheme of channel lining

List of questions:

- We are aware of a change in the water saved from the channel linings that is available for lease. It is our understanding that we would have had to have input and signed off on this prior to conversion. Can you please provide details on how this was done?
- It was our understanding that the irrigators paid for the original channel linings through the renewals and annuity. Therefore shouldn't the savings go back into this account for further lining?
- Previous agreement in existing ROP.
- As per presentation docs attached. Who manages information – no notification.
- Irrigators paid for first scheme out of renewals fund
- How is Bedford Bag now being addressed. Reliability of IQQM model. Needs to be worked on 100% - currently 81%
- What happened with illegal transfer of this water 2008/2009 (this question to be asked from the floor)
- Announced allocation for 2014/2015

2.6 Shed Meeting for Channel Shut-down

Meeting to include discussion on Peak Flow entitlement shares. Date for meeting – 28/04/14. Time and venue yet to be decided.

3. General Business

- 3.1 Representation – Geoff to send the allocated areas around.
- 3.2 Geoff Kavanagh spoke about distributions. He has requested clarification from Gordon Delaney however has not received any notification. Need to encourage everyone to write individual submissions. Geoff to put in the submission he has previously emailed to members on behalf of IAC.
- 3.3 Maintenance Issues - LW4 – any plans for spraying. Neil Farrell indicated that this has yet to be done. Trees on fence line also need to be attended to.

4. Meeting Closed: 1:00pm

5. Next Meeting: 5th May 2014 at 10am.