

Nogoa Mackenzie

IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF MEETING – 29 October 2009

Meeting opened at 10.00am at the SunWater Depot Esmond Street, Emerald

Present

Attendees	Representation
Dougall Millar	Chairperson
Geoffrey Kavanagh	Committee Member – Weemah Channel System
Les Fluerty	Committee Member – Weemah Channel System
Robert Ingram	Committee Member – Selma Channel System
Peter Galea	Committee Member – Selma Channel System
Ian Burnett	Committee Member – Nogoa Mackenzie River System
Carl Morawitz	Committee Member – Nogoa Mackenzie River System
Ian Davidson	
Peter Collett	SunWater
Adam Chappell	SunWater

1. Apologies

Neek Morawitz and Neville Wogandt

2. Previous Minutes

Previous Minutes

- The minutes of the meeting held on 23 December 2008 were accepted as published.
- There was a meeting of the Irrigation Advisory Group on 25 June 2009 to discuss the Modernisation Plan for the Nogoa-Mackenzie Water Supply Scheme, but minutes were not taken.

3. Business Arising from Minutes

Bedford Weir Update

- No new information since the last meeting. Investigations by WH&S Division continuing.
- Other bags in QLD (SunWater) dropped until further notice, a response by SunWater CEO.
- SunWater has commenced a design project for the replacement of the bags at Bedford with a suitable system. Construction is expected to commence around 2020.
- Geoff Kavanagh asked about the loss of 5,000ML by the removal of the fabric dam.
- The IAG has previously written to SunWater about this issue. Dougall Millar tabled a response from SunWater acknowledging this issue. It is being looked at as part of the Bedford Weir design project.

Fairbairn Dam and Weir Levels

- Peter provided a summary of the current dam and weir levels at 28 October 2009:



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	Level	Volume	Percent	24 Hour Change
Fairbairn Dam	202.00	992,029	76%	-1,269
Bedford Weir	120.26	10,470	46%	+212
Bingegang Weir	101.04	4,440	55%	+9
Tartus Weir	80.044	7,776	65%	-2

Forecast Releases

- Maximum river demand = 1,476ML. Current maximum release = 1,385ML. Should only be an issue if all irrigation pumps are running.
- If no inflows in November and December, then in early January expect the dam level will be close to needing to use Selma Pump Station.
- Selma Syphon works should be completed around Christmas. This will increase the river release capacity by approx 130ML

Intersafe Project

- Project aim is to upgrade infrastructure assets that have been assessed as HIGH or EXTREME WH&S Risk
- The works include the installation of:
 - Regulating gates
 - Walkways and handrails
 - Screens
- AWMA awarded contract in August 2009 (www.awma.au.com)
- Final measure up for Emerald structures in November 2009
- Installation in May/June 2010
- Total 61 Structures \$1.4million. Two by three week shut-downs will be needed on each channel for the works. SunWater will write to the IAG with the proposed dates.
- Geoff asked about funding to confirm that the works are being covered by the Annuity budget. This was confirmed by Peter Collett.
- Geoff also raised a concern about the possible impact that future safety related works might have on the cost of water.

Asset Management & Maintenance

- Adam Chappell and Peter Collett provided a brief overview of current works including:
 - Selma Syphon
 - Selma Pump Refurb
 - LN1 De-silting
 - Replace hydraulic RAM Bedford
 - Dam & Weir Inspection works
 - Meters – still waiting on Qld Gov Implementation Plan (December 2009?)



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Vegetation Regrowth Management

- The Vegetation Management Act 2009 has not impacted significantly on operations. SunWater has a general exemption for essential infrastructure management.
- SunWater will be submitting PMAVs for all SunWater land including flood margin land, recreation areas and facilities at Fairbairn Dam, as well as, all channels and drains. SunWater will consult with lessees and adjoining landholders during the preparation of the PMAVs.
- Lessees still need SunWater permission to undertake clearing on SunWater land
- Peter Galea tabled the latest Vegetation Regrowth Map (dated 6 October 2009) and raised his concern about the impact of the Vegetation Management Act 2009 on clearing the drains near Theresa, Retreat and Winton Creeks.

Weed Control & Slashing

- Ground Control Services have taken over the slashing contract. They have completed one full slash of Selma and Weemah Channels.
- Dougall Millar tabled a letter from SunWater informing the IAG that Acrolein might not be available after Christmas. This is a business decision by the manufacturer, but strong pressure was being applied by SunWater and other water organisations to ensure continuity of supply.

SunWater Office Christmas Shutdown

- The SunWater office will be closed from 12 noon Thursday 24 December 2009 through to 7am Monday 11 January 2010. This will only impact on office administration and routine operational activities.
- There will be a Water Officer on duty during the period and maintenance staff will be available to respond to breakdowns.
- SunWater will send out a letter before Christmas informing all customers of the contact numbers for the on-call staff over the Christmas period.

General Business

- It was requested that the minutes of the IAG be distributed to the Food & Fibre Group and the Cotton Growers & Irrigators Association.

4. Next Meeting

TBA

Meeting Closed at 11.35am.

Nogoa Mackenzie
IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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MINUTES CONFIRMED

Chairperson

SunWater Manager

Date

Date