

Date:	10 March 2021	Committee Members:	
	Time:	9.00am – 11.00am	Core Member Attendees Mario Barbagallo (BRIA) Russ McNee (BRIA) David Sartori (LBW) Scott Moorhead (TCC) Sib Rapisarda (Horticulture) Greg Watson (Canegrowers) Robert Stockham (GBA)
Venue:			Location
	Apologies		
	Michael Kern (AgForce Cane) Ricky Mio (AgForce Cane) Peter Hall (AgForce Cane) Ian Davis Jayson Dowie (Farmacist) Julie Atriach (PCGO) Les Elphinstone (KCGO)		

Minutes

Item #	Item	Presenter
1 Introduction	<p>Meeting Open and actions reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burdekin Falls Dam Project Update – June 2021 	Travis Richards
2 DRDMW Burdekin Basin water management	<p>Presentation from John Ritchie and Patrick Levings (DRDMW) via Microsoft Teams. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging expertise about the export and the impact Long term solutions – on farms for irrigation Impact on bore water – becoming salty Who is responsible for the outcome? DRDMW advised they will continue to liaise with the Burdekin CAC to identify practical solutions for the future of the Burdekin Basin. Question from group regarding the timeframe for the Burdekin Rising Groundwater Strategy. DRDMW advised they are currently briefing the Minister, no time frame at present and will liaise with group when further information is available. 	John Ritchie & Patrick Levings (Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water)
3 DES Cropping Guidelines	<p>Presentation on the introduction of new cropping guidelines for Burdekin. Presentation outlined that from 1 June 2021, new or expanding commercial cropping and horticulture activities in the Burdekin region on five hectares or more of land that does not have cropping history will require an environmental authority (permit) before the activity or any work takes place.</p> <p>Further information can be found via DES website here: https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/reef-regulations/producers/cropping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern raised from members of CAC regarding the impacts to existing irrigators who have made considerable changes to irrigation practices to offset runoff to reef. Concerns raised from members of CAC about potential impacts to relationships between irrigators in the region who have different sets of rules when expanding or creating new cropping/horticulture activities. Concerns raised from members of CAC about the form processes and ease of completion. DES advised they have a series of community engagement sessions planned and published on their website. Des took questions regarding impacts to exemptions for good irrigation practice history, impacts to irrigator relationships and form processes on notice. 	Chris Johnson and Sarah Jones (Department of Environment and Science)
4 Funding options for on-farm works	<p>Presentation on the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) aiming to improve regional productivity and provide value to growers.</p> <p>Project plan outlined the following key steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – link industry needs with funding opportunities 2 – form a consortium of partners 3 – continuity in delivery 	Gavan Lamb (Sugar Research Australia)

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	<p>4 – explore enabling technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term project 3.5years • Go live in the next few weeks – Autumn 2021 • 12months to develop a package then go to a provider 	
5 Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater project update	<p>Discussion regarding current works for LBGWP.</p> <p>Preliminary works undertaken for preparation of Gladys Lagoon water balance model. Flow meters ordered, Rubicon engaged for control systems and stakeholder engagement commenced. Monitoring bore and bathymetric survey RFQ's to be sent out with on ground works scheduled for May and June 2021.</p> <p>Greening Australia (GA) is in discussions with Sunwater regarding a GBRF funded project to construct three wetlands within the region. Sunwater is working with GA to identify the most beneficial locations for wetlands taking into account the impacts on groundwater.</p> <p>Sunwater and members of the Department of Environment and Science (DES) met on 9 February 2021 to initiate discussion about the potential to extract and export groundwater away from the BHWSS. Sunwater is providing a concept report to DES to enable them to review and provide feedback on the validity of potential options.</p> <p>Sunwater outlined upcoming works for LBGWP and provided a cost breakdown of Investigation Work proposed for the project. Total investigation costs are 7% of the total project budget.</p> <p>Sunwater demonstrated the new Lower Burdekin Groundwater Mitigation Project webpage and how to locate it on the Sunwater website.</p> <p>https://www.sunwater.com.au/projects/lower-burdekin-rising-groundwater-project/</p>	Travis Richards / Fiona Salter (Sunwater)
6 Electricity Cost Pass-Through trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunwater provided details on the Electricity Cost Pass-Through 'no-one is worse off' trial for the Burdekin Haughton distribution scheme. • Trial will operate over three years from 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2023. • The group stressed the importance of Sunwater establishing and reporting against energy efficiency key performance indicators such as pump energy indicators if a two-way mechanism is adopted. KPIs should be based on industry standards. • Sunwater highlighted annual Service and Performance Plans now publish average pump energy indicators for the scheme, including industry standard. • The group would like to see more disaggregated information at the pump level (or pump station level) to identify performance of pumps allowing for opportunity to enhance efficiency. • Sunwater to continue to engage customers during trial. • The Burdekin CAC did not provide support or otherwise in relation to the introduction of the electricity cost pass-through trial. Members were encouraged to provide letters of support to Sunwater by 22 March 2021. 	Dan Turton / Rachel Collins (Sunwater)
7	Sunwater advised group members to email any areas of interest to be emailed through for future agenda consideration.	Travis Richards

Item #	Item	Presenter
Future agenda items		

Meeting Closed at 11.10am

Next Meetings

- Burdekin Theatre Loft – 2nd June 9am
- Burdekin Theatre Foyer - 1st September 9am
- Burdekin Theatre Foyer – 1st December 9am

ACTION Items

For June 2021	
N/A.	

address: Green Square North, Level 9, 515 St Pauls Terrace,
Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

post: PO Box 15536, City East, Queensland 4002

ACN: 131 034 985

telephone: +617 3120 0000

email: customerengagement@sunwater.com.au

facsimile: +61 7 3036 6482

sunwater.com.au