

Burdekin Customer Advisory Committee

Date:	1 September 2021	Committee Members:	
	Time:	9.00am – 11.00am	Core Member Attendees Russ McNee (BRIA) David Sartori (LBW) Robert Stockham (GBA) Ian Davies (Wilmar) Greg Watson (Canegrowers) Michael Kern (AgForce Cane) Lisa Parker (PCGO) Evan Shannon (Farmacist) Mayor Lyn McLaughlin (Burdekin Water Futures)
Venue:			Location
		Apologies	
		Sib Rapisarda (Horticulture) Scott Moorhead (TCC) Rob Milla (BPS) Chris Johnson (DES) Gavan Lamb (SRA) Ricky Mio (AgForce Cane) Peter Hall (AgForce Cane) Jayson Dowie (Farmacist)	

Minutes

Item #	Item	Presenter
1 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of meeting minutes outlined on Sunwater website: https://www.sunwater.com.au/customer/reference-groups-and-committees/customer-advisory-committees/ Reviewed meeting minutes and outlined presentations that have been attached to meeting minutes. Supposed to hear in next few months for funding for modernisation of scheme. Reviewed current agenda. Travis will come to meeting in October to discuss how SW performed in previous FY and will meet in April to discuss the forecast. Mayor Lyn McLaughlin identified conflict of interest regarding Sunwater Council rates agenda item and will leave room during this topic. 	Travis Richards - Sunwater
2 Lower Burdekin Groundwater Mitigation Project Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gladys Lagoon – all mechanical meters have been replaced. Slip meter has been installed. Waiting on install for level sensors (awaiting signoff). Rubicon delays due to COVID-19 situation in VIC. All outlets hooked up to SCADA system. Will feed into water balance modelling. Slip meter installation: currently operating manually. When level sensors are in, will be automated through SCADA. Helps with operational efficiency. Infrastructure can be relocated if necessary. Upstream gates during pondage test had a leak. Pondage testing results will be taken for review by independent science panel. Sunwater will scrutinise results from Mulgrave area. <p>Sunwater advise that we are in the process of proving the data collected during the investigation stage of the project which will be provided to Sunwater's governance committee (SWP1). Since moving away from conjunctive use, there is an additional \$7M in funding that Sunwater will seek approval to reinvest in the project.</p> <p>A review was conducted by the group of the groundwater depth below natural surface map. This highlighted areas where groundwater is known to be above 3m from surface. Sunwater advised the current focus of the groundwater project will be on the high impact areas identified on the map. It was also identified that H10 will be a focus for channel lining (Mulgrave and Haughton areas). It was acknowledged that further areas may need to be addressed; however, the Mulgrave and Haughton are currently the focus areas of the Lower Burdekin Groundwater Mitigation Project.</p> <p>Question from the group: Why aren't government focusing on natural yield – Sunwater referred to Government.</p> <p>Statement from group: Observation bores aren't located in areas to pick up all groundwater issues.</p> <p>Question from group: When overlaying groundwater map on soil map, what are results? – Sunwater advise data not available on this at present. Group member advises this data is available for H10 channel.</p> <p>Sunwater advise \$12.5M has been committed to specific pockets where groundwater is of concern. Sunwater will continue its investigations to prove data and understand where the best investment can be made.</p> <p>Sunwater advise that reef credits are currently being investigated, with credits sold to fund ongoing maintenance and upkeep of wetlands.</p> <p>Question from group: Where is extracted groundwater going to be put? – Sunwater advise there are a few locations being considered.</p>	Fiona Salter – Sunwater Travis Richards - Sunwater






VALUE PEOPLE



WORK TOGETHER



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

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	<p>The group raised concern that Sunwater would be shifting the groundwater problem from one location to another. – Sunwater advise the independent science panel will assist working this issue out. It was also stated that sign-off will need to be obtained stating there will be no further impact to the aquifer and water should run through natural watercourses.</p> <p>The group raised concern that there are no quick fixes and that farmers want action now. The group want to have input into where the extracted groundwater will be placed.</p> <p>Sunwater confirm the water plan review is currently taking place.</p> <p>The group would like to understand the strategy that Sunwater will employ to engage the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW).</p> <p>Sunwater confirm they are speaking with the Minister and DA about the need to release the DRDMW groundwater strategy and guidelines, templates for groundwater management on-farm. Currently no commitment on timeframe.</p> <p>Evan (Farmer) presented data on automatic recording site on Mitchell Road in the Mulgrave area.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Service & Performance Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the S&PP to show data relating to bulk and distribution schemes. • Forwarded to all members prior to the meeting • Meeting in October – review FY that was • Meeting in April – forecast for FY to come • Insurance: Travis agreed to further discuss the issue of cost of insurance. Group is concerned about the cost rise in insurance. • Travis: figures to be presented before the next meeting. Expected to have figures by next meeting. Rationalisation of numbers needs to be undertaken before publishing numbers. • Travis explained the new system for financials and how the changeover to the new system impacted availability of results. • Dam improvement line – not paid for by irrigators. This is the case until next QCA review. • Reviewed annuity and non-annuity funded expenditures. • Discussed lighting upgrade and the addition of comms cables going through to provide comms in gallery. Safety improvement. ICT paying for this. • Group announced that BFDRP decision about possible raise may or may not be included in dam improvement project. Further decisions are expected on this in December 2021. • Question regarding when will specific pump station data will be available – Travis will come back to the group with this data. • Travis to send through with highlights (S&PP) • Request for total pumped in water usage to provide a more accurate view of water usage v metering 	<p>Travis Richards – Sunwater</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Flumioxazin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the new chemical • 2 problems identified: • Mung beans don't like it 	<p>Travis Richards – Sunwater</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"> VALUE PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY </p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3 of 4</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to be exposed by child-bearing women • Concern over side effects of use • SW are going to trial use to see if this is suitable 	
5 General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reduce to safe pumping level for irrigators – Gladys Lagoon. • SW do not want to do anything until bathymetric survey has been completed • Has any work been done about off-farm works (specific road) • No data available at this stage • Lower Burdekin Water Board had approval on their NWIDF funding and will be constructing a new pumping station 	Travis Richards - Sunwater
6 Council Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land evaluation is now at \$3M • Travis is reviewing rating and will be putting a request in writing to seek explanation of category rating and land evaluation. 	Travis Richards - Sunwater

Meeting Closed at 11.00am

ACTION Items

For June 2021	