

Bundaberg Irrigator Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Friday 2 February 2024

Time: 09:30am – 11:30am

Location: Sunwater Office, 34 Enterprise Street, Bundaberg / Online (MS Teams)

Attendees: Mark Mammino Joanne Hall (Online), Clayton Mattiazzi (Online), Bree Watson (Online), Dale Holliss, Shaun Tobin, Paul Nichol, Mark Mammino, Peter McLennan, Mark Pressler

Sunwater representatives: Shannon Lancaster, Stu Low, Andrew Maughan (Online), Prue Leng, Carolyn Gibbs (Online)

Apologies: Sam Waldron (Sunwater), Lucy Archer (Sunwater), Melissa Lascelles (Sunwater), Anita Steele (Sunwater), Darren Large (Sunwater), Ally Timms (Sunwater), Jim Randell (IAC), Alan Bush (IAC), Angela Williams (IAC), Jason Bartels (IAC), John Gorringer (IAC). Peter Russo (IAC), Simon Doyle (IAC) and Tyler Bengston (IAC)

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting open	Mark Mammino
2	Paradise Dam update	Stuart Low
3	IAC transition to CAC	Carolyn Gibbs
4	Operations update	Shannon Lancaster
5	General Business	All
6	Meeting Close	Shannon Landcaster

1. Meeting open

- The Chair opened the meeting at 9:32am and welcomed, acknowledged online members and apologises before introducing Sunwater to provide an update on Paradise Dam works.

2. Paradise Dam Updates

- Sunwater presented to the group on recent technical issues leading to the decision to plan for building a new dam wall.
- It was noted that content was similar to that presented at the recent Paradise Dam Reference Group (PDRG) meeting.
- Member queried about the intended asset life of the original dam. Sunwater advised it was 100 years.
- Member highlighted that having the existing dam behind the new dam wall may cause confusion for [irrigators] on the upstream side of the new dam. Sunwater acknowledged this would be challenging.
- Sunwater explained at the current lowered level it would be easier to carry out demolition works on the existing dam to this level across the full dam (as per animation flyover video/works diagram) and managing the storage level to allow for these works, compared to demolishing the existing dam to a lower level where it becomes more complicated as it becomes underwater demolition. All scenarios will require a partial section of the existing wall to be demolished down to bed level.
- Sunwater confirmed this methodology would be modelled in the Rocklea Hydrology laboratory.
- Member queried the timing was for works. Sunwater responded that there was not an answer at this time and acknowledged it would take a couple of years to go through design, geotechnical investigations and environmental approvals. Sunwater confirmed it was progress with the works it could in preparation for main construction activities. Sunwater will advise the Queensland Government the proposed schedule by the end of this calendar year.
- Member highlighted the issues with roller compacted concrete (RCC) design and was nervous of Sunwater using the same design again – and questioned if the same issues would arise. Sunwater responded that the current RCC has very low cement content, and that having a higher proportion in new mix will help, as will quality control, and making sure construction methods for compaction is done correctly. Sunwater confirmed other design options for conventional reinforced concrete were being considered but would likely extend the construction timeframe over that compared to RCC design.
- Member queried about the Bundaberg Irrigation Network Upgrades and what efficiencies Sunwater is hoping to deliver; is it looking at expanding the network or just finding efficiencies within the current network? Sunwater advised it was both. It was noted that the project representative was not involved in the business case development. It was suggested that a representative working on the project could present at a future meeting.
- It was noted that Sunwater gets a lot of applications for new offtakes or increasing flow rates, with constraints to supply.
- **Action Item:** Sunwater to present to IAC on Bundaberg Irrigation Network Capacity Upgrade scope (DBC) at a future meeting.

3. IAC Transition to CAC

- Sunwater advised it is reviewing and streamlining its customer and other advisory groups and presented on the transition of IAC to Customer Advisory Committee (CAC).
- Sunwater explained CACs consist of members from all customer groups, whereas an IAC is exclusively composed of irrigation customers. CACs hold three scheduled meetings per year (or as required) in accordance with the CAC Terms of Reference. IAC meetings are convened on an as-needed basis.
- Sunwater advised the process of the Bundaberg IAC transitioning to a CAC would involve a nomination process (form) and along with the Terms of Reference (ToR), which will be distributed to all Bundaberg customers in the second half of 2024. Existing IAC members are encouraged to become automatic members of the CAC.
- Member queried if the IAC would have input into the development of the ToR to ensure broad customer representation. Sunwater confirmed the IAC would have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft ToR.
- **Action Item:** Sunwater to share the draft Terms of reference (TOR) with Bundaberg IAC members for review before finalisation.
- Response: Draft ToR have been issued with the meeting minutes for review. Please send feedback to customerengagement@sunwater.com.au by 3 June 2024.

4. Operations Update: Annual Scheme Maintenance Program and Shutdowns

- Sunwater provided an update on proposed shutdowns for 2024, advising during the winter shutdowns large electrical upgrades are required which may impact the delivery program [the order they are carried out]. Sunwater presented on recent works at Fred Haigh Dam, Dinner Hill refurbishment and Walker Street pump station.

5. General Business

- Member referred to Sunwater's *Final Service and Performance Plan 2023*, Table 7: Electricity Matrix querying why there was more electricity usage (13.2 kw/hr increased to 17 kw/hr) with less water usage. Member queried why the efficiency factor had declined. Sunwater took the question on notice and committed to responding at the next meeting.
- **Action Item:** Sunwater to include electricity usage and efficiency at a future meeting.
- Next meeting: Wednesday 19 June from 9am at Sunwater Bundaberg Office, 34 Enterprise Street, Bundaberg.

6. Meeting Close

- Meeting closed at 10:35am

7. Approval and review

Chair:	Mark Mammino
Minutes:	Prue Leng
Date:	Friday 02 February 2024

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