

Burdekin Haughton Customer Advisory Committee

Date: 5 December 2024

Time: 9:00 – 11:00am

Location: Sunwater Clare Office (Cnr Satchel and George Streets, Clare QLD); Teams

Attendees: Chris Gillitt, Jo Marsh, Mayor Dalle Cort, Mario Barbagello, Robert Stockham, Sib Rapisarda, Ian Davies

Sunwater representatives: Aaron Elphinstone (Operations Manager North), Charlene Pearse (Customer Engagement Coordinator), David Hayes (Operational Readiness Lead), Alice Cuffe (Senior Stakeholder Relations Advisor), Peter Piotto (Project Manager), Rinesh Ram (Water Planning Officer)

Apologies: Angelo Licciardello, Kayleen Walsh, Greg Watson, Evan Shannon, Terry Granshaw

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting open Review of previous actions	Aaron Elphinstone
2	Operations update	Aaron Elphinstone
3	Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project update	Peter Piotto
4	Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project update	Alice Cuffe David Hayes
5	General business	Aaron Elphinstone
6	Meeting close	Aaron Elphinstone

1. Meeting open

- Sunwater welcomed the group to the last Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) for the year. Attendees were introduced.
- Acknowledgement of Country.
- Sunwater gave an overview of the agenda.
- Minutes of previous meeting were accepted.

Member Query: Member sought clarification about lining costs from previous minutes i.e. estimates of \$4-5 million compared to estimates of \$2 million for the pipeline.

Sunwater Response: Sunwater clarified that the \$2 million related to the pipe supply only. The installation cost was an additional cost.

2. Operations update

- Sunwater presented on Service and Performance Plans (S&PPs) including a demonstration of where to find them on the Sunwater website. Sunwater requested any questions/feedback are sent to the Operations Manager via email.
- S&PPs can be found on the Sunwater website [2024 Service and Performance Plan - Burdekin Haughton Bulk Water Service Contract](#)
- Sunwater presented on the Acrolein program. The program has been delivered to schedule with the exception of Ba1, which was cancelled due to weather.
- Sunwater will look to review the program in the new year, including re-scheduling Ba1.

Member Question: What is the condition of the weed in the headworks?

Sunwater Response: At this stage, we are comfortable with the condition of the weed in the headworks, and we will continue to monitor it.

Member Question: How much Acrolein stock does Sunwater have?

Sunwater Response: Sunwater has enough stock for our current program, however we are liaising with the supplier on what additional stock is available.

Member Question: Why did Sunwater cancel the Acrolein injection on Ba1?

Sunwater Response: It was cancelled because of the wet weather and increased Health, Safety and Environment risk associated with continuing.

Member Response: Sunwater needs to consider alternative equipment so injections can occur in wet weather.

Sunwater Response: Sunwater noted the members feedback, but reiterated Sunwater would not put staff or the environment at risk.

- Sunwater shared the status of some of the larger works sitting in the Planned Corrective Maintenance (PCM) Program.
- Sunwater shared the proposed shut-down program for the next two years. Sunwater aims to confirm the shut-down program 18 months ahead of time to provide the opportunity for customers to plan around them. Once finalised, Sunwater will circulate the shut-down dates, noting shut-down notifications would go out closer to the actual shut-down.
- Sunwater updated about the Copper Dosing Investigation, highlighting the issues for consideration, and alternatives being contemplated/implemented.

Member Question: What is Sunwater doing about an alternative water supply for the Clare Water Treatment Plant, specifically in relation to surface water and an alternative suction main straight from Clare A pump station?

Sunwater Response: Groundwater is not an option based on testing and the contaminants in the water. Surface water is, at this stage, considered a temporary solution, but would require some infrastructure.

Taking directly from the Clare A pump station would also be an infrastructure solution requiring investment, which has not been considered in any program of work to date.

Member Question: Would it be more efficient to do it all at once i.e. replace the suction main with the treatment plant itself?

Sunwater Response: It is unlikely as it would be developed using different contracting partners.

3. Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project update

- Sunwater presented an update on the Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project from the slide deck, including:
 - bore field test drilling and results
 - development of the Code of Practice
 - Department of Primary Industries' vegetated drain trials
 - progress for HDPE lining of bay 4 of Channel H10
 - recent milestone associated with funding for the Project.

Member Question: Member asked about the progress of work on the ground and spend to date.

Sunwater Response: Sunwater noted that this is a complex issue and that it has spent a significant amount of time investigating. H10 construction was planned for June 2024, however, following the market response, Sunwater made the decision to pursue the HDPE lining option to ensure value for money. This has delayed works by 12 months to align with the shutdowns required.

Member Question: Is the money that was provided by government still there or has it been spent on something else?

Sunwater Response: The budget remains unchanged.

Member Question: Member asked how scheme modernisation ties into this project.

Sunwater Response: Modernisation is a separate project that is still being investigated.

Member Question: Member asked about grants for on-farm works?

Sunwater Response: Sunwater's project considers off-farm solutions. Grants for on-farm works sits with the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.

Action: Sunwater to present further detail regarding the current project program (in relation to the original program) at the next CAC meeting.

4. Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project Update

- Sunwater presented an update on the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project from the slide deck, including:
 - in progress engineering design development, geotechnical investigations, survey, planning for enabling works including road upgrades, camp accommodation and Ergon and Telstra works
 - progress of the EIS and the next steps
 - a look ahead for work planned across 2025.

Member comment: Customers are keen to ensure that existing allocation costs do not cover new allocations created by the raising project.

5. General business

Dates for 2025 CACs to be confirmed in 2025.

6. Meeting close

- Meeting ended at 10.20am

7. Approval and review

Chair:	Aaron Elphinstone
Minutes:	Charlene Pearce
Date:	5 December 2024

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