

Burdekin Haughton Customer Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday 06 August 2024

Time: 09:00am - 11:00am

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

Sunwater representatives: Aaron Elphinstone, Keelie O'Sullivan, Alice Cuffe, Andrew Cronin, Deniz Sezgin

Customer Representatives: Mario Barbagello, Sib Rapisarda

Industry Representatives: Alicia Kennedy, David Satori, Melissa Balter, Greg Watson,

Department representatives: Maxine Kerr

Apologies: Evan Shannon, Travis Richards, Terry Granshaw, Peter Hall, Jo Quagliata, Mayor Dalle Cort

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1.	Meeting Open	Aaron Elphinstone
2.	Updated Terms of Reference	Keelie O'Sullivan
3.	Energy update	Andrew Cronin
4.	Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project	Fiona Salter
5.	Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project	Alice Cuffe
6.	North Queensland Water for Hydrogen Options Analysis	Deniz Sezgin
7.	Operational update	Aaron Elphinstone
8.	General business	Aaron Elphinstone
9.	Meeting close	

1. Meeting open

- The meeting was chaired by Aaron Elphinstone as the new Operations Manager – North.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- This was followed by an Acknowledgement of Country, an overview of the agenda and noting apologies.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

2. Updated Terms of Reference

- Sunwater presented the recent update to the [CAC Terms of Reference](#) (ToR). Key changes include:
 - Standardising the ToR across the state rather than having a different version per water supply scheme.
 - The ToR reflects the *stakeholder-centric business* strategic goal (previously *foster supportive relationships*).
 - More rigor around timeframes – ie. agenda to be issued seven business days before a meeting, minutes to be issued 20 business days after.
 - Membership to be reviewed every two years.
 - Three meetings per year unless agreed otherwise by the group.
 - Media protocols remain the same – customers must direct media enquiries to Sunwater.

3. Energy update

- Sunwater presented from the slide pack.
- Member stated he has two pumps on T22c and considering going back to 20. If it is a 24-hour operation the difference is marginal. There is no buffer on the V8 pump.
- Sunwater commented there is not a lot of difference between the different small tariffs. It does look like the QCA has closed the gap.
- Member asked of the Whole of Government (WOG) contract will end in 2028. Is there any indication of what that next contract will look like?
- Sunwater responded that we are in conversations with CS Energy about that and its potential to be rolled forward.

4. Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project

- Sunwater presented from the slide pack.
- Sunwater explained the process of going out to tender for an H10 pipeline. Construction cost was deemed too high. Sunwater revisited the solution and settled on a final solution of High-Density Polyethylene (HDP) lining.
- The solution means there will be no changes to how the channel operates and therefore no on-farm changes are required. The cost is significantly less and opens up the potential for other targeted infrastructure work in the scheme.
- Lining can be done in staged sections over multiple shutdowns.
 - Member question:** How much will the lining cost?
 - Sunwater response:** Estimates are between \$4-5 million.
 - Member suggestion:** Some impacted stakeholders felt singled out. Sunwater should meet with everyone at once and include BRIA.
 - Sunwater response:** Sunwater will consider this going forward.
 - Member question:** What was the cost that came back for the pipeline.
 - Sunwater response:** Approximately \$2 million for the supply of the pipe and valves.
 - Member comment:** Irrigators will be happy because they were worried about the flow being impacted by the pipeline solution.

- Sunwater presented about lowering Gladys Lagoon level and measuring the impacts of this. If we are having adverse environmental impacts, we can refill the lagoon.
- No new infrastructure required by this initiative.
Member question: When will this start?
Sunwater response: We are almost ready. We are working with impacted stakeholders to ensure their offtakes are not affected.
- Sunwater presented about borefields.
- We are focusing on Sunwater-owned land at this stage in terms of borefield locations.
Member comment: There are a couple of good bores that have been decommissioned because of salinity and Sunwater may be able to lease that land.
Member question: Were local drillers being invited to the tender (given their local knowledge)?
Sunwater response: We have heard from locals as part of the tender process.
- Sunwater commented that the better the water quality, the better the treatment options.
Member question: Member asked about the progress of the Code of Practice.
Sunwater response: Sunwater advised of the progress:
 - Water Quality Assessment Reports for BHWSS and Mulgrave area are complete
 - Screening of Potential Treatment Systems complete
 - MCA Workshop for Treatment Options complete
 - Draft Code of Practice is expected to be received in the coming weeks and run past DESI
 - Sunwater is meeting with relevant government departments every two weeks.**Member comment:** A previous analysis was done by Queensland Health. He recalled a lot of water in a particular area didn't have chemicals or nitrates. Only 1 of 8 bores had nitrates in it.
- Sunwater said if we can target areas where the treatment is easier, then we can prove it works and seek further funding down the track. There may be more than one solution to water treatment due to varying quality of water.
- Sunwater asked member to send the Queensland Health water quality testing data from a few years ago.
Action: Sunwater to follow up with member about the Queensland Health water quality testing data.
- It was noted that caretaker mode will start in the coming weeks.
Member question: Are there any hold points that DESI have come across in the Code of Practice?
Sunwater response: There has been conversation about EPBC requirements. We are revisiting that with DESI. It would add time to upfront CoP to address but save time later on. Sunwater to run through draft CoP next Thursday. CoP gives us conditions to transport water but might be hindered by other environmental authorities.

5. Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project

- Sunwater presented an update on the project from the slide pack.
- Sunwater is finalising revised draft EIS to resubmit to the Coordinator-General for review. Sunwater will keep the CAC informed on when the draft EIS will be released for public review and comment.
- On-site geotechnical investigations, ecology and cultural heritage surveys continue.
- The tender process is underway for the main design partner.

6. North Queensland Water for Hydrogen Options Analysis

- Sunwater presented an update on the Options Analysis from the slide pack.
- The Options Analysis will:
 - confirm water demand locations and required timeframes for water need
 - assess bulk water supply options to meet forecast demand and identify the preferred water supply source
 - develop high-level concept designs and costing for common-user options.
- Demand identified in two key locations – Lansdown, Townsville and Abbot Point.

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- Sunwater identified and shortlisted water infrastructure options for Abbot Point. The shortlist progressed to concept design.
- Sunwater is engaging with Councils to identify preferred water solutions.
- Sunwater is preparing study report to submit for Government consideration.

7. Operational update

- Sunwater presented an update from the slide pack.
- Member asked how Sunwater went with Clare Weir refurbishment.
- Sunwater: we swapped out 25 cylinders this year. Last year we swapped out 15.
- Sunwater has put pins in the monoliths and is surveying to monitor movement.
Member question: What is the cost per 100 m for concrete lining at Milaroo?
Action: Sunwater to provide cost of concrete lining.
Action Response: Based on what we have done over the last few years in Clare / Millaroo / Dalbeg, it costs approximately \$1,500 per linear metre of channel on average (which includes removal of existing, reprofiling and placing new concrete to bed and sides).
- Member asked if concrete lining is cheaper than poly lining.
- Sunwater said every five years we revisit the strategy for concrete lining repairs. Considerations for plastic lining include design life (20-years) and installation requirements i.e. still need to reprofile.
Member question: Member asked about copper dosing.
Sunwater response: We are unsure as to why we don't currently dose with copper sulphate in the BHWSS, noting we do dose copper sulphate in the MDWSS.
Action: Sunwater to provide update on copper dosing from environmental team.
- **Action Response:** Sunwater are investigating the possibility of copper sulphate dosing in the BHWSS. There are a number of issues and restrictions to work through. Sunwater will provide an update at the next CAC.

8. General business

- **Member question:** Member asked about Mulgrave Balancing storage. Surprised at the seepage out of dam wall.
Sunwater response: Sunwater intend to revisit the investigation into potential seepage at the Mulgrave Balancing Storage as part of the LBGWP.
- **Member question:** Why can't the balancing storage be run automatically and why does it need to be run so high.
Sunwater response: Sunwater will look into operation of the Mulgrave Balancing Storage, including its current operating level and if there is any possibility to lower that operating level.
- **Member question:** Why is Sunwater reluctant to build a soil wall.
Sunwater response: This is based on advice was that it might not be a good solution. We need to revisit the bunding off that section.
- Final meeting of 2024 will be **5 December**. Invitations have been sent out.
- Sunwater proposed three meetings in 2025 – in April, August, December. Placeholders will be sent out. Note: those dates can change to accommodate the group.
- It was decided that we would continue to host at the Clare office because the communication systems are better than the alternative option in Ayr.
Member question: Does Sunwater have any concerns about the condition of infrastructure and ability to supply water to customers in Dalbeg given current status of the Quintis' operations?
Action: Sunwater to respond to query from Member regarding Dalbeg.
Action response: Sunwater is confident in our ability to deliver water via our infrastructure, independent of the Quintis operation.

9. Meeting closed at 10:40am**10. Approval and review**

Chair:	Aaron Elphinstone
Minutes:	Keelie O'Sullivan
Date:	12 September 2024

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