

Burdekin Haughton Customer Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday 3 May 2023

Time: 9:00am - 11:00 am

Location: Burdekin Theatres

Attendees

Customer Advisory Committee members: Steven Pilla, Greg Watson, Russ McNee, Terry Williams (proxy: Mario Barbagello), Panikos Spyrou, Rob Milla, Terry Granshaw, Robert Stockham, Narelle Breadsell, Russel Searle, Sam Forsizi, Sharon McIntosh

Council members: Lyn McLaughlin

Department of Regional Development Manufacturing & Water members: Scott Stevens, Ariane Leyden

Sunwater representatives: William Weaver (General Manager, Operations North), Emily Caleo (Customer Engagement Team Lead), Casey Macfarlane (Water Planning Officer), Keelie O’Sullivan (Stakeholder Advisor), Karen Reid (Senior Environmental Business Partner)

Apologies: Mario Barbagello, Dean Sgroi, Arwen Rickert, Dave Satori, Peter Hall, Cy Kovacich

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Meeting Open	William Weaver
2	Burdekin Basin Water Plan Preliminary Public Consultation	Casey Macfarlane
3	Burdekin Haughton WSS Modernisation	Keelie O’Sullivan
4	Flumioxazin Trials	Karen Reid
5	End of Water Year	Emily Caleo
6	Membership review	William Weaver
7	General Business	William Weaver/All
8	Meeting Close	William Weaver

1. Meeting open

- Sunwater gave an overview of the agenda.
- Apologies noted.
- Sunwater confirmed that the meeting minutes were published on the Sunwater website.
- The CAC confirmed that the previous meeting minutes are true and correct.

2. Burdekin Basin Water Plan Preliminary public consultation

2.1. Burdekin Basin Water Plan Preliminary Public Consultation – Sunwater’s submission

- Sunwater Presented from slide pack.
 - Sunwater to include the link to the statement of proposals and include the relevant maps for the changes to be considered during the Water Plan review (see appendix a. and b.).
 - [Statement of proposals.](#)

2.2. Questions and feedback

- The CAC noted concerns regarding geographical areas, which aren’t in the Burdekin catchment being included in the plan, and what this may mean for funding allocations moving forward.

3. Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme Modernisation

3.1. Burdekin Haughton WSS Modernisation project update

- Sunwater confirmed that the business case will be submitted to government this week.
- Sunwater thanked everyone for participating in studies, which informed the business case.
- Sunwater confirmed that a pre-submission exercise has been completed, with questioning designed to mimic the submission being scrutinised. Sunwater confirmed that this went well.

3.2. Questions and feedback

- No questions from the committee

4. Flumioxazin Trials

4.1. Flumioxazin Herbicide trial Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme

- Sunwater presented from slide pack.
 - Sunwater advised that they are working very closely with Macspred to reduce the holding period to 7days (from 14days).
 - Sunwater confirmed that there is enough supply of acrolein to manage aquatic weed through the next season.

4.2. Questions and feedback

- The CAC confirmed that they have considered use of flumioxazin, and that a number of young female staff have raised the concerns regarding the warning label that “women of childbearing age should not be exposed to the chemicals”.
 - Sunwater was advised this precautionary statement was brought across in the label from the USA. Australian regulations are in place for review of new herbicide products and are similarly required to include precautionary statements. Sunwater advised that where appropriate PPE is used and the product is used in accordance with approved label, risk of harm is negligible. The APVMA have high regulatory standards for new chemicals to ensure safety controls are met.

- Sunwater confirmed that unless the Minor Use Permit with 7-day withholding period is approved, we wouldn't begin to use the chemical.
- The CAC queried if Sunwater considered the option of harvesting the weed for compost, as this could be considered as an environmental option.
 - Sunwater have looked at harvesting in the past. The scale of this solution on the channels has been an issue.
- The CAC advised that growth regulator could be a consideration in the control of aquatic weed.

5. End of Water Year

5.1. Key topics

- Sunwater presented from slide pack.

5.2. Questions and feedback

- The CAC requested that Sunwater be clear about overdue invoices and how this affects carryover eligibility.
- The CAC queried if it is common practice for DRDMW to fine customers for overuse of NAW.
 - Sunwater advised that they aren't aware of customers being frequently fined for overuse. Sunwater works with customers to avoid a situation where their overuse needs to be reported.

6. CAC Membership Review

6.1. Process and what to expect.

- Sunwater presented from slide pack.
- Sunwater advised that this is being done in line with the Terms of Reference and will focus on equitable representation of membership for the scheme.

6.2. Questions and feedback

- The CAC advised that it's important for continuity to be maintained where people are nominating proxy's, moving forward.

7. General business

- Sunwater confirmed that the Rules and Targets review has been completed and the approved document has been uploaded to the Sunwater website.

7.1. Further questions from the CAC

- The CAC queried if Townsville Water will be pumping through both the existing and new pipeline, once constructed.
 - Sunwater advised that we are currently in negotiations with Townsville City Council (TCC), however the agreements with/account details TCC are commercial in confidence.
 - Sunwater confirmed that GBA allocations should not be affected by the Townsville water allocation.
- The CAC requested a representative from TCC provide the CAC with advice on a ten-year plan and why they wish to be included in the Water Plan review and Burdekin Basin catchment area.

- Sunwater confirmed that they issued the invitation.
- The CAC would appreciate some printed copies of the slide packs being presented.
 - Sunwater to consider this moving forward.
- The CAC requested an update on the Rising Groundwater project.
 - Sunwater confirmed that approval is being attained to go to detailed design for a pipeline for Gladys lagoon and the last bay of H10 channel
 - Sunwater confirmed that DRDMW have moved this to strategic programs to push movement on the issue.
 - Groundwater management practices are to be considered during the Water Plan review as well.
 - Sunwater confirmed that procurement is currently looking for a consultant to assist with the creation of the code of practice.
- The CAC noted that there had been a recent article with the ABC about a rising groundwater project in WA and was looking to understand if DRDMW was sharing information where these projects are concerned.
- The CAC have requested access to Sunwater's draft submission to DRDMW, regarding the Water Plan review (Preliminary Public Consultation phase).
- Sunwater advised that the next CAC meeting will be held in July 2023.

8. Meeting close

- Meeting closed at 10:16am.

9. Approval and review

Chair:	William Weaver
Minutes:	Emily Caleo
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