

## Burdekin Haughton Customer Advisory Committee

**Date:** Thursday 7 August 2025

**Time:** 9:00 – 10:15am

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

### Attendees

**Customer representatives:** Mario Barbagallo, Greg Watson, Scott Stevens, Evan Shannon, Terry Granshaw, Allan Parker, Kayleen Walsh, Tom Wallwork, Pierinae Dalle Court

**Sunwater representatives:** Aaron Elphinstone (Operations Manager North), Sarah O’Grady (Stakeholder Relations Advisor via Teams), Megan Shea (Water Security & Policy Manager via Teams), Phillipa Tomasetig (Regional Administrator)

**Apologies:** Robert Stockholm, Sib Rapisarda, Terry Granshaw (late), Jo Martin

### Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting open and previous actions	Aaron Elphinstone
2	Burdekin Basin water plan review	Megan Shea
3	Groundwater Project update	Aaron Elphinstone
4	Operations update	Aaron Elphinstone
5	General business	Aaron Elphinstone
6	Meeting close	Aaron Elphinstone

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## 1. Meeting Open

- Sunwater welcomed the group to the second Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) for the year.
- Acknowledgement of Country delivered.
- Agenda discussed and confirmed.
- Minutes of previous meeting were accepted.

## 2. Burdekin Basin water plan review

- Sunwater presented on the Burdekin Basin water plan update.
- Member queried if the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV) has given any thought / consideration to including environmental requirements / rules in the water plan about the Rising Groundwater Project.
  - Sunwater confirmed environmental rules are being considered by government and at the April Water Consultation Group meeting. DLGWV indicated it was one of the policy options they were reviewing.
- Member queried if the modelers are considering the influence of the groundwater in the Barratta Creek System (as sometimes there are significant inflows of groundwater) and how are they working out what proportion of water is coming in the system as groundwater.
  - Sunwater explained DLGWV can use groundwater inflows in the hydrologic model to show the close interaction between the surface water and groundwater, but Sunwater would need to confirm with DLGWV and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) if and how groundwater is included in the Burdekin model. **ACTION**
  - **Action response:** The model for the Burdekin Basin water plan does not include inflows from groundwater
- Member queried if Sunwater can insert a section in the water plan titled 'rising groundwater management principles' or something similar so that we have something enshrined in the plan?
  - Sunwater explained rather than being written as principles, any additions would likely be written as an outcome in the plan. DLGWV will do a full review of the outcomes, and they might make something more specific than what's currently detailed in there. For every outcome, they need to detail strategies as to how to they'll meet that outcome and ways to assess that outcome. If the outcome isn't sufficient, Sunwater may make a submission on the draft plan.
- Member queried if there is a volume or a figure available for the unallocated water and where does the unallocated water come from.
  - Sunwater confirmed it's based on modelling that DLGWV complete with the Department of Environment, Technology, Science and Innovation (DETSI) to develop the water plan. The modelling undertaken by DETSI uses historical rainfall in the catchment and everyone's allocation across the catchment. DLGWV and DETSI also look at the volumes needed for environmental flows. If there's volume leftover, that becomes the unallocated water volume that is stated in the water plan. Sunwater then outlined the volumes detailed in the 2007 Burdekin Basin Water Plan.
- Member queried if Sunwater could explain the 8,000 ML of Sunwater reserve.
  - Sunwater explained the water plan states 8,744 ML; it doesn't state what catchment it's for.
  - Member clarified it's for the Bowen Broken system, and it was reserved under the proviso Sunwater install extra infrastructure to reactivate it. It was reserved at the time of the original offstream storage assessments for the Gatton Vale Offstream Storage.
- Member queried which reserve the Bowen pipeline proposing to get their water from.
  - Sunwater took an action to find out which reserve they proposing to draw water from and a quantity. **ACTION**

- **Action response:** The Bowen Pipeline Company's Project is independent of Sunwater. The Bowen Pipeline Company would be able to purchase available water on the water trading market, like anyone else. Sunwater does not have any more information to share. More information may be available online.

### 3. Groundwater Project update

- Sunwater presented an update on the Lower Burdekin Rising Groundwater Mitigation Project from the slide deck.
    - Member queried if the interception drainage at Mulgrave Balancing Storage will be on the northwestern side.
    - Sunwater confirmed it will be.
    - Member queried why it has taken so long (10+ years) to install the interception drainage.
    - Sunwater acknowledged the time taken and the frustration of members.
  - Member questioned the logic about dropping it into a drain and running it through Mulgrave; surely an interception drain would be suitable for pumping it back into the balancing storage. Another member then explained that the overflow always has salt in the surface – and there's salt running into the drain and gets in RB5.
    - Sunwater confirmed it will consider the feedback.
  - Member queried if H2 is on the northeastern side of Stockholm Road.
    - Sunwater confirmed H2 is at the end of H6/1.
  - Member queried if the observation bore (H2) on Stockholm Road (at the end of H6/1) is very saline.
    - Sunwater needed to confirm, but assumed it wasn't very saline given it is being proposed as a trial bore site.
  - Member asked if geophysical surveys will be undertaken to optimise bore locations.
    - Sunwater explained another organisation in the area is doing some surveys and Sunwater may use the information gathered.
  - Member enquired if the bore on Mulgrave that's running will need to be checked for contaminants, pesticides, etc.
    - Sunwater confirmed it checks water quality, flow rate data, etc.
  - Member asked if the production bores will be treated as a pump test so that aquifer information can be fed into a model.
    - Sunwater replied it will find out if aquifer information can be fed into a model.
- ACTION**
- Member queried when the first newsletter will be made available.
    - Sunwater noted it will be distributed in the next few weeks. **ACTION**

### 4. Operations update

- Sunwater presented the Operations update from the slide deck.
- Member asked when the infill concrete pour would be completed.
  - Sunwater explained the contractors return a day later for the concrete infill and complete it in sections with three or four pours over a two week shut-down. Sunwater noted it could complete the work in multiple shorter runs and this will be reviewed for future work.
- Member questioned what's happened with the previous aquatic weed trials in the Barratta

system.

- Sunwater explained that the trial has concluded, and while it was reasonably successful in the treatment, it still requires the 14-day withholding period.
- **Post meeting update:** Sunwater correction - the trial conducted was not overly successful in terms of treatment of aquatic weed.
- Member queried if Clear Channel will provide training.
  - Sunwater confirmed that they can provide training and support.

## 5. General business

- Sunwater noted that it will start asking for agenda items when we send out the email invite.
- Sunwater asked members for feedback on how they like to be communicated with outside of meetings. Member explained that email is preferable as they can easily pass on information to others.
- Next CAC meeting will be on Thursday 4 December 2025.

## 6. Meeting close

- Meeting ended at 10.15am.

## 7. Actions

Action Item	Action Owner	Status of Action
Sunwater to speak with the DETSI and DLGWV to ask how groundwater in the Barratta Creek System is represented in the model.	Megan Shea	Completed (See Section 2 above)
Sunwater to find out which reserve the Bowen pipeline is proposing to draw water from and a quantity.	Sarah O'Grady	Completed (See Section 2 above)
Sunwater to find out if aquifer information can be fed into a model.	Aaron Elphinstone	In progress
Sunwater noted the Groundwater Project newsletter/update will be distributed next week or the week after.	Aaron Elphinstone	Completed

## 8. Approval and Review

Chair:	Aaron Elphinstone
Minutes:	Sarah O'Grady
Date:	12 September 2025

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