

## Chinchilla Customer Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday 24 May 2023

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Chinchilla RSL Memorial Club

### Attendees:

Representing customers: Mark Jennis, Ian Wolski, John Bender

**Sunwater representatives:** Craig Cahill (General Manager South), Darrel McKinlay (Senior Operator Maintainer), (Sheridan Ward (Stakeholder Relations Advisor), Keelie O'Sullivan (Stakeholder Relations Advisor), Casey Macfarlane (Water Planning Officer)

**Department representatives:** Peter Brownhalls (DRDMW) and Jackie Lee

**Apologies:** None received.

### Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting open and previous actions	CC
2	Previous meeting actions	CC
3	Operations update	CC
4	End of Water Year	CC
5	CAC Membership Review	CC
6	General business	ALL
7	Meeting close	CC

## 1. Meeting open

- Introductions - in room and online
- Sunwater confirmed minutes were circulated and published on the Sunwater website.

## 2. Previous meeting overview

### 2.1. Chinchilla Weir

During the 2021-22 water year large water flows were identified, causing slumping and scouring approximately 20 meters in diameter and 2.5 meters deep. Works were undertaken this year to rectify as per the presentation.

This meant that Sunwater was required to action works ahead of the intended plan, however due to the heavily rainfall season major works were not completed until April 2023. Minor works were also completed on the right bank. It was much more expensive than originally forecast due to the tight market conditions.

## 3. Operations update

### 3.1. Point Orange Device

First one was trialled on 27 March in St George in a location where no phone service was available. It uses the Telstra network on the Narrowband network Internet of Things (IoT) and enables data to be pushed backwards and forwards accordingly. It is intended to provide data to the department and customers so information is accessible in real time once the trial is complete.

### 3.2. Dual Purpose Meters

All dual-purpose meters need to be validated by 30 November 2025. There are 36 meters in total and 19 are dual purpose – used for both harvesting and allocation.

Member Q: How are usage patterns determined?

Sunwater A: The data is based on historical extraction data. The scheme will cover 50% and the landowner covers 50 per cent.

Additional communication will be provided in the coming months. The majority of water meters under 600 mm will need to be replaced, which will occur from July 2023.

There is some funding available outside of Sunwater to help customers comply. Noted as an action, Sunwater will find out information on how to access.

Stream Flow View: A GIS overview has been created in the Mac Brook Scheme to see real time occurrences. Currently only in concept phase, however as we progress, information will be shared accordingly.

### 3.3. Water Data Hub

Information available on Sunwater website including predication graphs, storage levels, water quality and blue green algae information.

### 3.4. Gas Water

Concern raised regarding if there is overflow then gas water is released creating air pockets in allocations. Sunwater advised that only water within the weir is used.

**Action:** Sunwater to develop graphs for the next meeting.

## 4. End of Water Year

### 4.1. Temporary Transfers

No real movement in temporary transfers. Voluntary meter reads can occur prior to 4 July. Breach notifications follow if necessary.

## 5. CAC membership

### 5.1. Membership review

The CAC is currently effective, and business as usual activities are being conducted, the group consists of a diverse range of people and the Terms of Reference are satisfactory.

## 6. General business

### 6.1. Carp

Carp was raised in the previous meeting. Outcome advised: Biosecurity and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are responsible and are working with councils. Herpes virus has not gained hold however the Department is looking into it.

National carp strategy: Started to regroup and decide if a priority. No decision made. It is unclear how it will be staged, however there is an in-depth strategy.

### 6.2. Red Claw

Red Claw concerns: They are supposed to only be located on the eastern side of the range; however, one has been caught elsewhere. Department noted that it takes a large infestation to create an issue.

It was confirmed via text message during the meeting by a Department Ecologist that they are not aware of Red Claw.

A fish tagging system has recorded 11 million fish between Loudon Weir and St George which has yielded data on types, size and how far travelled.

### 6.3. QGC Allocation

Allocation for QGC: indicative numbers for Coal Seam Gas from July 2023 onwards indicates an increase of 10 ML/D. Conversations are to occur with relevant stakeholders, which is a positive outcome.

### 6.4. Water Trading Board

It is in everyone's interests to ensure more people are aware of the water trading platform. Essentially a noticeboard and Sunwater has created the platform to connect sellers and buyers.

## 6.5. Meeting in Dalby

Member Q: It was raised in another meeting approximately 12 months ago that if the Government do not get enough people selling water back they will take three per cent off everyone – do you have further information?

Department A: It was to help people understand the relativity. If the Commonwealth do not recover a certain amount of water to cover targets by due date according to the Basin Plan, they need to work out how to find that three per cent.

Commonwealth are aware and Queensland and New South Wales are advocating to bridge that gap. The current tender will support. It closed last Friday and no outcome will be clear for at least a couple of months.

## 7. Meeting close

11:30am, next meeting to be set.

## 8. Approval and review

Chair:	Craig Cahill
Minutes:	Sheridan Ward
Date:	Tuesday 23 May 2023

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