

Chinchilla Weir Customer Advisory Committee

Date: 27 August 2025

Time: 8.30am - 10am

Location: RSL Chinchilla

Customers: Mark Jenyns, Ian Wolski, Ross Uebergan

Sunwater representatives: Craig Cahill (General Manager – Operations South), Nathaniel Ash (Operations Coordinator), Darrell McKinlay (Senior Operator Maintainer), Caley Pearce (Stakeholder Relations Advisor, online), Rinesh Ram (Water Security & Policy Advisor, online)

Departmental representatives: Peter Brownhalls (Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers)

Apologies: John Bender

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting open	Craig Cahill
2	Operations update	Craig Cahill
3	General business	Craig Cahill
4	Meeting close	Craig Cahill

1. Meeting open

- Meeting opened 8:40am.
- Introductions conducted.
- Acknowledgement of Country delivered.

2. Operational update

- Sunwater presented slides on Chinchilla Weir Water Supply Scheme operations including:
 - behaviour of Chinchilla Weir in relations to Coal Seam Gas (CSG) water
 - medium priority (MP) announced allocations (AA)
 - scheme operations and water usage over the past year
 - dual purpose meters and telemetered meters
 - planned corrective maintenance works.
- Discussion took place between members and Sunwater regarding Smart Schemes and dual-purpose meters, including the Point Orange NB-IoT connectivity solution.
- Member asked about the cost of the replacement buoy line.
 - Sunwater responded that the buoy line would be inspected and would only be replaced if necessary. The cost would be applied to the annuity balance and spread across 20 years, or the asset replacement life.
- Member asked if there has there been a change in the way AA are calculated.
 - Sunwater to confirm if there had been a change in the calculation (**ACTION**).
- Member asked if the void in the concrete was located at the top or the bottom of the weir.
 - Sunwater explained the void is in the mid-section. Radar penetration is used to assess the extent of the void, which is estimated to span a large section of the weir. Further assessment work is required.

3. General business

- Member shared that an irrigator was organising pig shooting in the weir area and asked how this affects Sunwater's insurances and policies.
 - Sunwater advised that a large parcel of land attached to the weir is owned by Sunwater. Any activity on the land must be communicated.
 - Member noted that council was involved with the with the pig shooting.
 - Member also noted they had a freehold lease up to the water.
 - Sunwater clarified with land use agreements, landholders have the right to use the land in line with the agreement, which includes pest management. The issue is whether the pig shooting is occurring on the land under an agreement, or outside of it.
 - Further discussion took place between Sunwater and members on land use and pest control.
 - Sunwater to speak to the landholder who organised pig shooting and express willingness to work with them (**ACTION**).
- Sunwater announced a survey had been sent to CAC members and encouraged feedback.

- Member asked how long CSG water supply would last, noting it was originally stated as 20 years, with 10 years remaining.
- Sunwater replied the supply is expected to last 10+ years under current conditions. There is some uncertainty with the Dalby supply, as water from the Dalby site is being treated at the Kenya site and used in the region. There are discussions about using the water closer to its extraction point.
- Member asked about the duration of CAC membership.
 - Sunwater advised two years, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR).
 - Sunwater to share ToR with members (**ACTION**).

Post meeting note, the ToR is available from the Sunwater website by visiting [Customer Advisory Committee](#)

- Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV) shared that water plans are due for replacement in 2029. The review process will commence next calendar year with stakeholder consultation to assess the effectiveness of the current plans and explore opportunities to streamline them.
- The Murray Darling Basin Authority is currently evaluating and reviewing the Basin Plan, including stakeholder and community consultation. A draft plan is expected at the end of next year, with an opportunity for public submissions.
- The Commonwealth has established Baseline Diversion Limits (BDLs) for water recovery programs. In the Condamine-Balonne region 100,000 ML has already been recovered, and no further recovery is planned for the region.
- The Commonwealth has released a tender for water recovery in the Condamine Alluvium tributaries. This is not expected to impact Chinchilla WSS customers. The target is to recover 3000 ML in the tributaries, including 250 ML in Central Condamine Alluvium around Cecil Plains, Brookstead and Dalby.

4. Meeting close

- Meeting close 9:15am.
- Next meeting scheduled for May 2026.

5. Actions

Action Item	Action Owner	Status of Action
Sunwater to investigate whether there has been a change in AA calculation	Craig Cahill	In Progress
Sunwater to communicate with landholder who had organised pig shooting	Craig Cahill	In Progress
Sunwater to share CAC Terms of Reference with members	Caley Pearce	Complete

6. Approval and review

Chair:	Craig Cahill
Minutes:	Caley Pearce
Date:	27 August 2025

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