

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 9th August 2019

Time: 9:30am – mid-day

Location: Maryborough Canegrowers, 106 Bazaar Street, Maryborough

Attendees: Geoff Wormwell, Independent Chair
Allan Birt; Norm Muller; Scott Maxwell; Scott Allcott; Elyse Riethmuller, representing customers
Trevor Dean, Fraser Coast Regional Council
Tristan Cartamel, Fraser Coast Regional Council
Chris Coutts Smith MSF
Darren Large, SunWater, General Manager, Burnett & Lower Mary
Andrew Maughan, SunWater, Operations Coordinator – Storages, Burnett & Lower Mary

Guests: Lisa Welsh, SunWater, General Manager Customer Strategy
Cris Siron, SunWater, Customer Advisor
Tony Reynolds, SunWater, Senior Administrator, Burnett & Lower Mary

Apologies: Nil

Chair: Geoff Wormwell

Minutes: Tony Reynolds

Agenda Items		
Item No.	Agenda Item	Presenter
1.	WELCOME 1.1 Declaration of interests 1.2 Minutes 17 May 2019 1.3 Actions	Chair
2.	DISCUSSION TOPIC 2.1 Strategic Action Plan finalisation (targets, dates and lead for actions) 2.2 Action 1 Planning: Review the key limitations to scheme viability identified by the LMA Board Stage 3 2.3 Action 2 Planning: Understand the current scheme infrastructure, operations, water usage and limitations 2.4 Action 3 Planning: Developing and implementing solutions 2.5 Action 4 Planning: Define the role of the CAB in the off-stream storage announced by the Federal Government	Chair
3.	OPERATIONAL UPDATE 3.1 Industry update 3.2 SunWater operational update 3.3 SunWater pricing update 3.4 Network Service Plans (inc FY20 non-routine maintenance program)	Members Darren Large Lisa Welsh Lisa Welsh & Darren Large

Agenda Items		
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4.	NEXT STEPS 4.1 Agenda items for next meeting 4.2 Confirmation of date of next meeting	Chair
	MEETING CLOSE	

1. Welcome

1.1 Chair opened the meeting at 09:30 and welcomed Chris Coutts-Smith from MSF; Tristan Cartamel from Council and Cris Siron from SunWater and noted the resignation of Trevor Crook from MSF.

Chair then asked attendees to declare any perceived or real conflicts of interests. There were none.

1.2 Minutes of 17th May meeting reviewed and accepted as correct. Original signed by Chairman and retained by SunWater for electronic filing.

1.3 Refer to document “*Action list for Lower Mary CAB*” [SunWater document #2406539]. Tabulated to contain all action items requiring attention. Document to be updated with action items from this meeting.

2. Board Strategic Action Plan

2.1 Discussion deferred until further discussion on agenda item 2.5.

2.2 The chair presented a short summary of some of the conclusions of stage 3 of the LMA process reviewing key limitations to the scheme viability. Water security was the main driver for growth in the scheme and while infrastructure improvements were important he believed those works were secondary to securing an off-stream storage facility in some form.

2.3 Geoff indicated the site tour after this meeting will assist the newer CAB members gain an insight into the scheme infrastructure, operations, layout and limitations.

2.4 The CAB remains focussed on developing and implementing solutions that support water security for the region.

2.5 There was considerable discussion on this topic with the chair commenting this opportunity should not be left to slip away. The work that MSF has done to date is commendable. It was felt that SunWater should support the CAB in progressing this project in conjunction with MSF. Lisa indicated that Peter MacTaggart, in his role as Executive General Manager Corporate Development, could attend a future CAB meeting to explore how this and potential future options for water security could be achieved. The CAB members indicated strong support for continuing this off stream storage project and supporting any other available opportunities for funding to facilitate water security for the Lower

Mary water supply scheme. It was agreed to adopt the following motion to be provided to the Sunwater Board:

Motion moved and accepted - The Lower Mary Customer Advisory Board believe that water security is the key driver for achieving and securing a sustainable scheme for the long-term future of the region.

The collaboration between the Federal Government and MSF on the Glendorf Off Stream Storage project has the potential to achieve this and we strongly support this and other initiatives that deliver water security to the region.

We are seeking a commitment from SunWater, State and Federal agencies and MSF to work collaboratively to achieve a common goal of water security for the scheme within realistic timeframes.

The CAB is the voice of customers within the region and can provide a forum to facilitate engagement with end users throughout the project lifecycle.

3. Operational Update

3.1 Each board member was asked to comment on any industry updates or news that was relevant to the board.

Scott Allcott informed the meeting he believed there was continued interest from corporate organisations looking at buying land with water entitlements. This may be due in part to the volatile global trade and investment markets. Corporates may also be looking to diversify investment in the future of worldwide food security.

Elyse identified that the proposed regulations under the “*Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*” should be debated in state parliament soon. From government sources it seems the bill is intended to reduce water pollution (nutrients and sediment) from agricultural and industrial land uses entering reef waters while maintaining productivity and profitability. While the cane industry seemed to be at the forefront during public review of the new bill it could potentially also impact other industries like grazing and tree crops.

Scott Maxwell noted that water security was a very high priority for the horticulture industry.

Both Allan and Norm had nothing further to add regarding the sugar cane industry.

Chris advised the meeting that it appeared sugar cane pricing pressures were having an impact on some landholders use of property. There is always some crop rotation to gain increased revenues however with the current price per tonne for sugar this activity seemed to be more prevalent.

It was noted by all that it would be in SunWater’s interest to prepare for future water use patterns to change as diversification and other crops were introduced into water supply schemes.

Trevor Dean commented the expansion of Hervey Bay airport would support regional growth. There were plans for the airport precinct to cater for freight movements in regional and remote locations. The low availability of rental housing in the region may also support an increase in urban development

applications and land use. Council had also participated in an investigation into the viability of taking water from Paradise Dam. More information on this is available from the council web site.

3.2 Darren Large presented the operational report. This report [SunWater document #2463926] will be made available to all CAB members for review and comment. This report is still open to further refinement and modification. The chair recognised this report, with historical and current data, provided the board with trend information on operational matters.

This report is circulated about five days before each meeting, with other paperwork, for review and comment by exception.

3.3 Lisa advised the meeting the QCA web-site indicates they will provide a draft Irrigation Price Review report to the government by 31st August 2019. QCA propose holding regional workshops during September/October with a final report to the government by 31st January 2020. The key objective is to recommend irrigation prices for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024.

SunWater has made two supplementary submissions. One on the access charge which was formed with support and input from the CAB at its meeting held 17th May 2019.

The second submission, jointly with Queensland Farmers Federation, related to an electricity pass through methodology.

Full details are available on QCA web-site

<http://www.qca.org.au/Water/Rural/Irrigation-price-investigations/In-Progress/Irrigation-Price-Review-2020-24>

3.4 The Network Service Plan fact sheet was e-mailed to all members on Thursday 8th August. Darren provided comment on each NSP and detailed further information and background on the non-routine activities.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Agenda items to be updated prior to the next meeting.

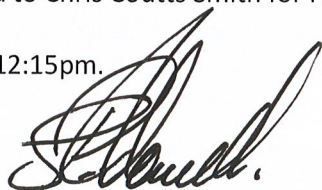
4.2 Next meeting will be Friday 18th October subject to release of QCA timetable for regional workshops which are scheduled for September/October 2019. There may be an opportunity for CAB to coincide the next meeting date with a QCA Maryborough workshop.

Action item: Lisa to review QCA Irrigation Price Review time-line and if possible arrange for next CAB meeting to coincide with QCA possible visit to Maryborough.

Chair thanked all for attending and expressed his appreciation to Tristan for his future participation at these meetings and to Chris Coutts Smith for representing MSF.

Meeting closed at 12:15pm.

Geoff Wormwell
Chair



Date 8/10/19.