

# Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 3 July 2019  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Inglewood Bowls Club, Inglewood

Attendees	Representation
Andrew Hooker	Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC)
Jino Destefani	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Matthew Oxenford	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Rick McDougall	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Kieran Bosnjak	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Darli Doljaniin	Irrigator Advisory Committee
Peter Healy	Yarranbrook Feedlot
Warren Stiff	Yarranbrook Feedlot
John Kelly	Sunwater Area Operations Manager - Goondiwindi
Chris Mann	Sunwater Storage Supervisor - Coolmunda Dam

**Apologies:** Anthony Doljaniin, IAC Member

**Chair:** John Kelly

**Minutes:** John Kelly

Item No.	Item	Presenter
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Chair
2.	Apologies	Chair
3.	Review of Previous Minutes	Chair
4.	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	Chair
5.	Agenda Items	Chair
6.	2018 R&E Program	John Kelly
7.	2019 R&E Program	John Kelly
8.	Budget position – Expenditure 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019	John Kelly
9.	Water Ordering	John Kelly
10.	Water Storage Update	John Kelly
11.	Management of low storage Volumes	John Kelly
12.	General Business	All

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:10pm and welcomed the IAC members and thank them for their attendance.

**Agenda Item 2 – Apologies**

Anthony Doljanin

**Agenda Item 3 – Review of Previous Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on 15 October 2018 were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved: Darli Doljanin, Seconded: Andrew Hooker

**Agenda Item 4 – Business arising from Previous Minutes**

**Cut off Level:** Sunwater confirmed that the ROP states that when the water level in Coolmunda Dam reaches EL304.53m AHD (approx. 1380ML), Sunwater must cease supply of Medium Priority allocations. Sunwater advised further discussion on this matter as per Agenda item 11 below.

**Agenda Item 6 – 2018 R&E Program**

Sunwater provided the Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC) with an update on the completed R&E projects for the scheme for the 2018/2019 financial year. Please see attachment to the minutes for further details.

**Agenda Item 7 – 2019 R&E Program**

Sunwater provided the IAC with an update on the planned R&E projects for the scheme for the 2019/2020 financial year. Please see attachment to the minutes for further details.

**Agenda Item 8 – Budget Position – Expenditure to 30 June 2019**

Sunwater provided the IAC with a scheme Financials P&L to 30 June 2019. Please see attachment to the minutes for further details.

**Agenda Item 9 – Water Ordering**

Sunwater provided the IAC with the Water Ordered vs Usage Report (see attachment to the minutes). Sunwater advised the IAC that water ordering was critical to Sunwater's ability to manage the scheme efficiently, particularly during periods when water availability is low. The current % of water that is order compared to what is used is 38%. Sunwater asked the committee for their support in communicating to the scheme customers the importance of water ordering. Sunwater advised that there was a new water ordering App being developed which would allow orders to be placed using mobile phone. It is hoped that mobile solutions such as this will improve the volumes of water being ordered within the scheme.

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**Agenda Item 10 – Water Storage Update**

Sunwater advised the IAC of the water stored within the scheme as at 3 July 2019 as follows:

Coolmunda Dam – 5,666ML  
Whetsone Weir – 302ML  
Ben Dor Weir – 476ML

**Agenda Item 11 – Management of Low Storage Volumes**

Sunwater advised the IAC of the current storage forecast model (available on Sunwater’s website at [https://storagelevels.sunwater.com.au/storageforecast/Forecast\\_Portal.htm#Coolmunda](https://storagelevels.sunwater.com.au/storageforecast/Forecast_Portal.htm#Coolmunda)) which currently is forecasting the cut off level will be reached by mid October 2019.

Sunwater discussed with the IAC the relevance of the cut off level within a capacity share system. Sunwater advised that Sunwater believes the cut off level does not actually achieve anything in terms of ‘protecting’ high priority supplies, as in a capacity share system, what someone does in their MP share does not affect water in a separate HP share. This is one of the key principles of capacity sharing. Sunwater advised that MP customers should be able to draw their share down until it was empty and this would not affect the HP customers in any way. Sunwater advised it thought the cut off rule was a remnant of the old announced allocation water sharing rules and is no longer relevant within the capacity sharing water sharing rules. The IAC agreed that the cut off does not hold any relevance to the operation of the scheme.

**Action:** Sunwater to discuss and propose to DNRME the removal of the cut off rule for Coolmunda Dam.

The committee discussed the need to ensure continuity of supply to some of the major industries and employees within the scheme as well as the urban needs. Sunwater advised that the council had adequate water to meet the needs of Inglewood over the next 12 months and that council had elected to not take up all of the water in an annual term lease from Sunwater. The water not taken up by council could be provided to Sunwater’s water trader to allow irrigation and industrial customers to access additional volumes. In addition to this, Sunwater advised that the water trader had approximately 250ML left in its account. Sunwater advised the committee that Sunwater had recently changed service providers for its water trading with the new water trader being RuralCo.

Sunwater advised the committee that its water trading strategy is approved by the Sunwater board each year, expected to be before the end of July 2019, after which Sunwater would provide water to the water trader. Sunwater advised it would provide details of the water trader to scheme customers as soon as the water trading strategy was approved and water was transferred into the trading accounts.

**Action:** Sunwater to provide details of the water trader to customers as soon as water is transferred into the traders account.

The IAC questioned whether water holes could be drawn down to access allocation water. Sunwater advised that the ROP allows water holes to be drawn down 0.5m below their cease to flow level, but only if that waterhole is going to be replenished from water released from one of the scheme storages.

The IAC discussed the extraction of water from Coolmunda Dam and transport of that water to other areas outside the scheme (eg Warwick or Stanthorpe). Sunwater advised that such options had been explored by others with a view to ensuring towns outside the scheme were able to meet critical water needs. Sunwater advised that the cost to truck the daily water demands for regional towns from

Coolmunda Dam would most likely be cost prohibitive. Sunwater noted however that anyone holding an allocation could sell water to anyone outside the scheme if they were willing to transport it. The IAC agreed to have it noted in the minutes their view that all water should remain within the scheme. Sunwater advised that if it were to get a direction from Government to make water available to users outside the scheme then that is what would have to happen.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – General Business**

**Whetstone Weir valve leakage:** The IAC queried what action was proposed to address the leakage through the outlet valve at Whetstone Weir. Sunwater advised that a new bulkhead gate had to be designed and fabricated so the valve could be isolated for inspection to determine the cause of the leak. That work was completed under the R&E program and as such we can now make arrangements to inspect the valve.

**Action:** Sunwater to install the bulkhead gate in at Whetstone Weir and determine the cause of the leakage and proceed with rectification.

**Sand and Gravel Extraction from Bracker Creek:** The IAC discussed a current proposal for a commercial operator to extract sand and gravel (10,000t/yr) from within the impoundment area of Coolmunda Dam (Bracker Creek). The IAC were in favour of the proposal as it will address issues including reducing localised flooding due to breakouts from the creek at low flows due to the current build up of sand and gravel and improve the ability of smaller flows to travel through into the dam proper. The IAC were not concerned about any water quality impacts as a result of the extraction activity. The IAC voted unanimously in favour of their support for the project. Sunwater advised it was working with the proponent on issues such as workplace health and safety management and environmental management to ensure all risks were considered, mitigated and managed to Sunwater satisfaction, prior to Sunwater providing owners consent to the proposal.

Sunwater proposed that IAC meetings be held monthly given the current water shortages with a view to monitor the storage levels to be able to respond, as best as possible, to the needs of customers moving forward. ***The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.***