

Date: Tuesday 23 March 2021

Time: 9am

Location: Anglican Church Hall, Ruby Street Emerald

Attendees:

- Members of the IAC - Robert Ingram (RI), Les Fluerty (LF), Neek Morawitz (NM), Dion Roberts (DR) & Paul Wortley (PW)
- Sunwater (SW) - Jason Smith (JS)
- Fairbairn Irrigation Network (FIN)– Geoff Beard (GB) – (joined the meeting late), Anne Marie O’Callaghan (AMO), Ross Burnett (RB), Peter Galea (PG) Emma McCullagh (EM) & Donna Lewis (DL)
- Mining Representative: Neil Dale (ND) Ensham
- Urban Representative: Jason Hill (JH) CHRC Consultant
- CH Cotton Growers & Irrigators Representative: Aaron Kiely (AK)

Apologies:

Neville Brownlie, Nigel Burnett, Matthew Barnes & Hamish Millar.

Minutes:

| Item no. | Item |
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| 1 | <p>Introduction and Welcome RI opened the meeting at 9:10am & welcomed everyone.</p> |
| 2 | <p>General Business</p> <p>2.1. Dam level forecast JS Gave update on Fairbairn Dam levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Low Water Levels - 11.8% 192.417 (January 2007), 11.68% 192.391 (March 2019), 8.63% 191.566 (January 2020), 7.52% 191.18 (December 2020). • Water level today 21.4%. • Graph of recent performance & drawdown pattern discussed. • Usage Forecast shown. JS reminded everyone that this is an estimate and any change in usage will impact the estimated EOM Storage Forecast. • Estimate for 1 July 2021 is 14.08% unless we receive more inflow. <p>2.2. Announced Allocation (AA) Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS advised allocations are assessed during inflows & at the end of each quarter. • JS explained how the AA is calculated. Calculations consider dead storage, carryover water, losses & reserves. A table can be found in the ROP regarding how HP reserves are calculated. • A review of the MP allocation will be announced today, and a further announcement will be approx. 9 April (end of Qtr 3 review), once meter reads are processed. • Discussion held on interim allocations. IAC members requested that Sunwater run the calculation on the first of every month, while levels are low, using the water held in the dam. Therefore, meter readings would not be required for the calculation. This is particularly important this year for irrigators to make decisions whether to use water given the implication of percentage of carryover. JS to submit request. • Concerns were raised about the delay in the AA 6% to 22%. This was a critical time for crops and the delay was unacceptable. Brisbane team need to understand how dire the timing is |

address: Green Square North, Level 9, 515 St Pauls Terrace,
Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

telephone: +617 3120 0000

email: customersupport@sunwater.com.au

post: PO Box 15536, City East, Queensland 4002

facsimile: +617 3120 0260

ACN: 131 034 985

sunwater.com.au

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| | <p>as crops were distressed. An interim AA could have been given earlier as even a 2% increase would have meant watering could continue until firm AA was declared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting participants questioned why there was such a delay in the calculations and why, with current technology, do we have to wait for the water to be in the dam before the calculations can be made. • NM noted that when ROP was devised, timeframes around AA were based on technology available at the time. The timeframe should be able to be made shorter now with the availability of new technology. • Concern about the accuracy of the upstream gauging stations. JH to query with council to see why the gauges are not working correctly. • JS has requested a project assessing the gauges in the catchment. • AMO requested JS go back to team doing the calculations and request they look at the process to enable faster result. • ROP review next year is a chance to change the old rules. PG advised that customers will be making a submission the DNRME with or without Sunwater but would like Sunwater to participate with customers. |
| 3 | <p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM queried if there were any plans to look at changing the way the carryover is managed e.g., sliding scale. JS advised that it was too late to make any changes for the coming water year and the best time to look at the carryover guidelines would be during the review of the ROP in 2022. The current Storage Working Group has this item on their agenda. • PG queried what was happening regarding a group to look at what changes are required in the ROP review. JS noted that there have been two meetings of irrigators i.e., Low Level Water Storage Group. This group is looking at many issues not just low-level pumping and will be meeting again this coming Tuesday. JS advised that Sunwater were holding these meetings to ensure that processes etc are more open & transparent. The meeting participants concurred that if it is the intention of the group to look at broader issues than Low Level Pumping then it is not correctly named. • GB requested an update on progress of FIN's request to take over management of Selma Pump Station which was made last June. JS advised that Risk Assessments etc are underway, and that the proposal needs to go through many departments. AMO noted that FIN have not seen anything yet and that proposal feedback should be sought from FIN before Sunwater spend money setting up a contract that may not suit. JS to follow up. |

| Action Items | | | |
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| Ref No. | Item | Assigned To: | Due Date: |
| 1 | Request Sunwater run the AA calculation on the first of every month in low water scenarios (less than 10% AA,) and particularly March, April & May so customers can make decisions based around forecast Carryover and SOWY AA. | Jason Smith | 30/04/21 |
| 2 | Query with council why the Fairbairn upstream gauging stations are not working correctly. | Jason Hill | 30/04/21 |
| 3 | Request Sunwater look at the process of calculating the AA to enable faster result. | Jason Smith | 30/04/21 |
| 4 | Follow up progress of request from FIN to manage the Selma Pump Station | Jason Smith | 13/04/21 |
| 5 | Provide channel water usage forecast until June 30 and beyond to Jason Smith for collaborative forecasting | Geoff Beard | 12/04/21 |

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| Chair: | Robert Ingram |
| Minutes: | Donna Lewis |
| Date: | 23 March 2021 |
| Meeting Closed: | 10:15am |