

# Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 7 August 2019

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** Anglican Church Hall, Ruby Street, Emerald

**Attendees:**

| Attendees              | Representation                                |
|------------------------|---|
| Robert Ingram          | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Neville Brown          | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Nigel Burnett          | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Les Fluerty            | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Matthew Barnes         | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Neek Morawitz          | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Paul Wortley           | Irrigator Advisory Committee                  |
| Anne-Marie O’Callaghan | Fairbairn Irrigation Network                  |
| Ross Burnett           | Fairbairn Irrigation Network                  |
| Emma McCullagh         | Fairbairn Irrigation Network                  |
| Donna Lewis            | Fairbairn Irrigation Network                  |
| Peter Manning          | Central Highlands Regional Council            |
| Jason Smith            | Sunwater Operations Manager – Nogoa Mackenzie |

**Apologies:** William Weaver, David McDougall, Hamish Millar and Mel Rohl

**Chair:** Robert Ingram

**Minutes:** Donna Lewis

| Agenda Items |  |                |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| Item No.     | Agenda Item  | Action Point   |
| 1.           | <b>Introduction and Welcome</b><br>At 9:16am Robert Ingram welcomed all to the meeting. Welcome extended to Geoff Beard (Acting General Manager for Fairbairn Irrigation Network) attending his first Nogoa Mackenzie IAC meeting. |                |
| 2.           | <b>Apologies</b><br>William Weaver, David McDougall, Hamish Millar & Mel Rohl  |                |
| 3.           | <b>Business Arising from last IAC Meeting</b><br>❖ <b>Channel Lining Project</b>   | Action Point 1 |

| Agenda Items |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Item No.     | Agenda Item   | Action Point                                |
|              | <p>Jason Smith gave update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunwater &amp; Fairbairn Irrigation Network (FIN) agree that the Project is not viable under current terms</li> <li>• \$1.35M spent to date on the entire project - \$600K spent with contractor on lining one section (below 25 Mile).</li> <li>• Robert Ingram reported that he &amp; Ross Burnett met with the Sunwater Engineers and discussed the fact that job has not been completed satisfactorily. The standard of the work is poor, and 8 or more sections need repairs. The edge of the lined channel is not level and when full it may overflow in the low areas. In the event of a rain event the soil placed adjacent to channel will most likely end up in the lined section. There is a risk of the channel giving way and flooding an irrigator’s paddock. The road has also not been restored to all weather gravel – now has sections of black soil.</li> <li>• Sunwater Project Manager has raised issues with the contractor however a response has not been forthcoming.</li> <li>• Sunwater would have a retention payment however this may not cover the cost of fixing the design problems. There should also be a warranty for the job.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Water Allocations for 2020 Water Year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announced Allocation - 100% HP &amp; 0% MP at 1 July 2019.</li> <li>• Carryover of 70,800mL in system – approximately 15K Selma, 14K Weemah and 42.5K in the river system.</li> <li>• Loss factor is calculated quarterly and changes based on the EL of the dam. Loss factor is applied 1 July, 1 October, 1 January and 1 April.</li> <li>• Bulk water meters are being read every month while the dam level is low.</li> <li>• On the current forecast (with no inflow), low level pumping will have to start in November/December.</li> <li>• It was noted that some irrigators didn’t receive notification of their carryover.</li> </ul> | <p>Action Point 2</p> <p>Action Point 3</p> |
| 4.           | <p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>Set-up of Sunwater Nogoa Mackenzie IAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To remain largely unchanged</li> <li>• Peter Manning to continue as Central Highlands Regional Council representative</li> </ul>  | <p>Action Point 4</p>                       |

| Agenda Items |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Item No.     | Agenda Item   | Action Point                                |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jason Smith to see if there is a representative from Mining sector</li> <li>• Plan to hold meetings on the same day as FIN IAC – Sunwater at 9am followed by morning tea around 10:30 and FIN meeting to start around 11am.</li> <li>• Donna Lewis to take minutes</li> <li>• Payment for hall &amp; catering to be paid alternately</li> <li>• Meetings to be held quarterly – if possible, in line with FIN board meetings.</li> </ul>   |   |
| 5.           | <p><b>New Business and Updates</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Spillway Project</b></p> <p>Jason Smith gave update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On track for December 2020 finish.</li> <li>• On target for both time &amp; budget</li> <li>• Retaining walls well advanced</li> <li>• Night time works are being completed to remove concrete</li> <li>• Robert Ingram requested an update from Steve Gibson at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>QCA Price Path</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report expected 31 August as per QCA website</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>River Gauging Stations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New stations at Selma Weir and Bridge Flats. The sensor at Bridge Flats is not currently reading accurately – flow curve to be adjusted.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>River Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No capacity problems on the river for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.</li> <li>• Jason Smith getting divers to check trash racks when dam reaches low levels</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>River Meters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jason Smith reported that when he started in his capacity as Operations Manager for Nogoa Mackenzie there were 7 meters not working. 2 have been able to be fixed.</li> <li>• Jason Smith is expecting a delivery of water meters in 2 weeks. They will be prioritised and installed as soon as possible.</li> </ul> | <p>Action Point 5</p> <p>Action Point 6</p> |

| Agenda Items |  |                |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| Item No.     | Agenda Item  | Action Point   |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meters are capable to have back to base telemetry installed.</li> <li>• Neek Morawitz asked if it was possible for customers to be able to view the data. Jason Smith to investigate.</li> <li>• Bulk water meters are read by Sunwater staff.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Sunwater Staffing Levels for Nogoa Mackenzie</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jason Smith advised that there are 4 staff (including himself) based at Fairbairn Dam and 1 staff member working at the Rockhampton end of the scheme.</li> <li>• Reassigning roles has meant there is very little increase in the overall staffing budget.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Selma Pump Station</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All pumps are currently able to be operated although Pump #2 has some vibration.</li> <li>• Pump #2 will be the next pump to be refurbished.</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Low Level Pumping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion held around low level pumping – what are the trigger points, decision making matrix, economic viability etc.</li> <li>• Jason Smith is writing a process. To have draft ready for discussion at the next meeting.</li> </ul> | Action Point 7 |
| 6.           | <p><b>Meeting Closed</b></p> <p>Meeting closed 10:25 am.</p>   |                |

| Open Action Item Summary |  |                              |          |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------|
| Ref No.                  | Description  | Assigned To                  | Due Date |
| 1                        | Follow up with Channel Lining Project Manager to find out progress on claim with contractor. | Jason Smith & William Weaver | 18/9/19  |
| 2                        | Distribute the carryover fact sheet which includes table of loss factors in line with EL     | Jason Smith                  | 18/9/19  |
| 3                        | Check why some irrigators didn't receive the notification for carryover.                     | Jason Smith                  | 19/8/19  |

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**Open Action Item Summary**

| Ref No. | Description  | Assigned To | Due Date |
|---------|--|-------------|----------|
| 4.      | Seek an IAC representative from the Mining sector  | Jason Smith | 19/8/19  |
| 5.      | Arrange for Steve Gibson to give update on Spillway Project at next meeting  | Jason Smith | 18/9/19  |
| 6.      | Investigate if it is possible for customers who have back to base meters to view the data – perhaps through their Sunwater online. | Jason Smith | 18/9/19  |
| 7.      | Draft process for Low Level Pumping  | Jason Smith | 18/9/19  |

**Next Meeting:**

Date: Mid-September 2019

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Anglican Church Hall