

Date: 6 October 2021

Time: 9:00AM – 10:30AM

Location: Mayfair Ridge Tavern, Emerald & Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Chair: Manesh Magan (Sunwater, Customer Engagement Lead)

Representing customers and stakeholders: David Hiette (BMA), Peter Besch (BMA), Madeline Bourke (Curragh), Geoffrey Kavanagh, Neek Morawitz, Neil Dale, Scott Collinge, Hamish Millar, Ross Burnett, Marvin Pacheco, Michael Moore (DRDMW), **Scott Stevens (DRDMW)**.

Council members:

Sunwater representatives: Manesh Magan, Jason Smith, Roshan Singh, Louis Rodriguez, Marian Hart, Emily Caleo

Apologies:

Minutes: Manesh Magan (Sunwater, Customer Engagement Lead)

Agenda items		
Item no.	item	Presenter
1	Meeting open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies • Review of meeting minutes • Actions from previous meeting 	Manesh Magan
2	Bedford weir options study	Roshan Singh Luis Rodriguez
3	Carryover update	Marian Hart
4	General business Future meeting date	All Manesh Magan
5	Meeting close	

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1. Meeting Open

[Agenda item 1]

- Introductions completed for working group participants at both Mayfair Ridge Tavern, Emerald and via Microsoft Teams.
- Location of meeting minutes displayed for working group participants. See the following link: <https://www.sunwater.com.au/customer/reference-groups-and-committees/customer-advisory-committees/>
- Sunwater review of four action items from past working group as follows:
 - Updating presentation terminology – confirmed complete.
 - Updated presentation circulated – confirmed as complete.
 - Insurance eligibility following the damage to Bedford Inflatable Rubber Dam (IRD):
 - Response provided: No. Sunwater lodged an insurance claim but was not able to recover any costs under its policy.
 - Supply of river release data:
 - Annual entitlement and historic use data is available (previously supplied for a few years).
 - 3 years of daily releases and order data has been collated for the assessment of the provision made for river losses.
 - Agreed that this data will be analysed in detail as baseline background information for the ongoing assessment of the Bedford Weir project demand and service need assessment.
- The working group want Sunwater to gain a true understanding of river data.
- Comment that completing further work on Bedford Weir would not provide any benefit if there is no demand. Sunwater confirmed that this work will form part of Bedford Weir Preliminary Business Case.
- The working group suggested that Bedford Weir was being operated at above the nominal operating level (nominal operating level is in the order of four meters below the spill height) – Sunwater agreed this concern had been communicated and identified measures currently underway to run the river with less allowance for losses where possible and additional streamflow monitoring sites. The aim of these measures is to reduce the operating level of Bedford Weir and maintain airspace available for runoff inflows.

2. Bedford Weir Options Study Presentation

[Agenda item 2]

- Sunwater presented slide pack ([attached](#))
- Sunwater identified that option 2 (1.2m raise of Bedford Weir, fixed concrete crest) is the preferred option from four preferred options (as per slide pack).
- Option two was highlighted as the preferred option due to a number of factors. Sunwater confirmed all options provide improvements to water reliability.
 - Raising to 1.7m indicate more water; however, there are higher economic, regulatory and environmental approval requirements.
- Each option has been assessed and weighted against the agreed multi-criteria assessment (MCA).
- Sunwater advised the preliminary business case (PBC) will include:
 - Improved understanding of demands above and below Bedford Weir.
 - Consideration of system efficiencies and improvements to current operational strategies.

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- Sunwater sought feedback on the preferred option and process. Group comments as follows:
 - Like the approach; however, would like further information about zone performance and downstream demand.
 - Sunwater should investigate downstream demand.
 - Reiterated that there is no unallocated water available in the scheme.
 - Question raised if the Building Queensland (BQ) framework would be used for the assessment.
 - Sunwater advise that elements of BQ framework will be considered; however, Sunwater needs to meet the requirements of the project funding under the National Water Grid Fund (NWGF).
 - Sunwater agreed as mentioned above that demand assessment and confirmation of service need will be key part of Bedford Weir Preliminary Business Case Assessment.
 - Question raised – what does this mean for the remainder for other locations in which Inflatable Rubber Dams (IRDs) have been removed?
 - Sunwater advised all projects are assessed on their merits. This is the methodology for this project and will be for all future projects.
 - All projects would need to move through a business case process.

3. Carryover Update

[Agenda item 3]

- Sunwater presented slide pack ([attached](#)).
- Working group comments:
 - Stressed the importance of progressing the carryover change – uncertainty at the time of the start of the water year due to the step change in carryover both at 193 m and 197 m AHD and impacts on business decisions for all as well as water trading.
 - It is important that drawdown forecasts are timely and accurate.
 - Recent storage forecasts were appreciated.
 - Going forward the carryover change will need to be tested in the IQQM model for impacts to reliability and impacts to the Headworks Utilisation Factors (HUF).
 - Members of the working group do not agree that there are no pricing implications when considering the carryover decision. A change will impact the HUF which will impact High Priority (HP) customers more than Medium Priority (MP) customers. A member of the working group indicated that HUF methodologies are not expected to be used going forward.
 - Uncertainty in carryover under the existing rules make it difficult to make business decisions at the start of the water year.
- Sunwater asked how the group would like to move forward with carryover change. The group made the following comments:
 - Are we ignoring the Water Allocation Security Objectives (WASOs)? These cannot be ignored as they impact water allocations.
 - New costs would be incurred by MP customers with change to sliding scale carryover rule.
 - The IQQM model does not factor in carryover.
 - Compliment to Sunwater for forecasting through previous water year.
 - HP users tie up water available in the scheme because the risk of not having allocation is high. Feels irrigators are being held back from available water which is not used by HP customers if there is uncertainty around carryover at the start of the water year. Do not feel that HP customers are trading water which is impacting agricultural use.
 - A subsequent email was received by a member of the working group seeking clarification on the assessment required for a change in the carryover rules identifying provisions previously in the ROP. The requirements are now set out in s198 of the Water Act. The requirements for a

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change to water sharing rules (of which carryover is a part) do require an assessment of WASOs and Environmental Flow Objectives to remain consistent with target objectives in the Water Plan. These are usually assessed in the IQQM model, however, carryover is not represented in the model because the model tests the system under full utilisation. Sunwater would seek advice from DRDMW regarding an alternative approach to the assessment that is acceptable under the provisions of the Water Act.

4. General Business

[Meeting close time: approx. 10:45am]

- Discussed next meeting date (intended to be quarterly)
- Next meeting will be set for end of January 2022.

5. Approval and Review

Chair:	Manesh Magan
Minutes:	Manesh Magan
Date:	Monday 11 October 2021