

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 25 January 2022

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Location: Microsoft teams

Attendees:

Chair: Lee Horsford (Senior Water Industry Advisor)

Representing customers: Lindsey Krieg, Jan Lafrenz

Sunwater representatives: Lee Horsford, Rachel Collins, Matthew Pearce, Emily Caleo

Apologies: John Kelly, Richard Jubb, Gary Cooper, Fraser Bligh, Johannes Roellgen

Minutes: Emily Caleo (Customer Experience Support)

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	Meeting Open	Lee Horsford
2	Electricity Cost Pass-Through (ECPT) trial	Rachel Collins
3	Water Sharing Rules update	Lee Horsford
4	Meeting Close	Lee Horsford

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1. Meeting Open

[Agenda item 1]

2. Electricity Cost Pass-Through (ECPT) trial

[Agenda item 2]

- Sunwater presented from [slide pack](#)
 - Sunwater advised that communications would be sent on 25 January 2022 to customers who would be receiving a credit on their January 2022 invoice following the inclusion of stream flow usage in the pass-through calculation, along with an ECPT fact sheet.
 - Questions/comments raised by the Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC):
 - The IAC noted that it was the variability of electricity usage from year-to-year, due to pumping occurring across differing peak/off-peak periods, that prompted the scheme to want to take part in the ECPT trial. Noting that, in reference to the Queensland Competition Authority's allowance "a blanket \$90k wouldn't work". Should there be a change in tariffs, the scheme may be "worse off".
 - Sunwater discussed that a tariff change occurred towards the end of 2020/21, with the cents per kilowatt hour trending downwards.
 - The IAC provided feedback that having the calculations and communications completed in a timelier manner is an opportunity for Sunwater. The IAC noted the pass-through calculation, though complex for modelling purposes, was transparent for customers and easy to understand.
 - Sunwater advised that the pass-through calculation and pass-through amount per megalitre is in the fact sheet, with the pass-through amount and the customer's actual water usage in 2020/21 also presented on the customer's invoice.
 - The IAC considered that the pump efficiency metrics were good, given pumping at Yarralong pump station is undertaken on an opportunistic basis.
 - The IAC believes that North Branch irrigators are highly unlikely to support a permanent ECPT mechanism inclusive of debits while Part A charges remain above lower bound cost-reflective levels.
 - Sunwater confirmed that there are two years remaining in the trial.
 - Sunwater will include the pricing team email address in the meeting minutes.

3. Water Sharing Rules update

[Agenda item 3]

- Sunwater confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting, held on Friday, 10 December 2021.
- Confirmation that Sunwater sent the draft fact sheet (action item from previous meeting).
 - Questions/comments raised by the IAC:
 - Feedback received from the IAC that the fact sheet was information-heavy, however, there is an understanding of the necessity, due to it being a complex issue.
 - The IAC commented that the update is more reflective and live than the old mechanism.
 - The IAC would like Sunwater to run face-to-face engagements in the scheme, to educate customers on the Water Sharing rules.

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- Consultation with customers to include the Operations Manual and the fact sheet. Confirmed Hydrology report is not required for consultations, unless requested by customers. Possible customer engagement times:
 - Proposed customer engagement “Shed Talks” to be held from the first/second week of March. This will align with irrigation practices in the scheme.
 - Sunwater noted that this will be dependent on travel restrictions with COVID-19 circumstances.
 - Possible engagement opportunity at the upcoming Southern Downs Regional Council meeting.
 - Ideally consultation should be done as early as possible, noting that the changes will need to go through an approval and implementation process.
- Sunwater advise that the Operations Manual draft will be sent to the IAC, pending review from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water. =
 - Operations Manual updates to be made/considered:
 - Opening summary list of changes made for quick reference
 - Wording pulled from “Underground water management in the Condamine Balonne Water Management Protocol”
 - Possible change to productive base wording.

4. Meeting Close

[Agenda item 3]

5. Approval and Review

Chair:	Lee Horsford
Minutes:	Emily Caleo
Date:	Friday, 28 January 2022

Action Items

Action items		
Item no.	Item	Responsible person(s)
1	Regulatory and Pricing team email address to be included in the minutes	Rachel Collins
2	Send draft Operations Manual after review from DRDMW	Lee Horsford
3	Schedule consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Southern Downs Regional Council ● Shed Talks 	John Kelly (General Manager, South)

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1. Regulatory and Pricing team email address for additional queries/feedback on the ECPT trial:
 - QCAIrrigationPriceReview@sunwater.com.au

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