

This is a high-level summary of the meeting for PDRG members to share with their networks. It provides a summary of agenda items, discussion points, and meeting actions.

Agenda Item	Discussion Points
Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country, Introductions	Chair welcomed attendees, acknowledged outgoing and incoming members. Acknowledgment of Country provided by the Chair.
Acceptance of previous minutes	Previous minutes were accepted by members with no changes.
Detailed Business Case Update	<p>Sunwater discussed the progress of its detailed business case and noted it will now be submitted to the Queensland Government in mid-2026. This is to allow additional work in relation to Infrastructure Australia's recommendations.</p> <p>Members discussed water demand, utilisation and investment behaviour across the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme. Sunwater presented data showing average annual utilisation of approximately 47%, with full demand not forecast until around 2070 if the dam is returned to full supply.</p> <p>Members strongly cautioned that annualised utilisation data does not reflect how growers plan, particularly in dry years or when allocations increase late in the water year. Tree crop growers emphasised that early-year reliability is critical for planting decisions, and that current uncertainty is discouraging investment. Members stressed that future droughts could be prolonged and that full proposed dam capacity is essential for long-term water security and regional prosperity.</p> <p>Sunwater requested additional qualitative and quantitative information from stakeholders to support demand and utilisation assumptions in the business case.</p>
Environmental Update	<p>The Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) provided an update on the Impact Assessment Report (IAR) process, noting publication of the IAR Guideline. A draft IAR is being prepared, with agency review followed by public notification. Members will be notified in advance of the public notification period.</p> <p>A proposal was raised for OCG representatives to attend future PDRG meetings as permanent guests. Members are to raise any concerns with the Chair regarding OCG becoming permanent guests at future meetings.</p>
Operations Update	<p>Sunwater reported on the March 2026 flood event, which was treated as a flood of record as it is the biggest flood since the dam was lowered. Approximately 900,000 ML per day flowed through the dam. The structure operated as expected, with minor damage comparable to previous events and significantly less impact than the 2013 flood. Post-event inspections and reporting are underway in line with Sunwater procedures.</p> <p>Sunwater reiterated that Paradise Dam is not a flood mitigation dam, noting ongoing community misunderstanding of its role and opportunities for additional community information to correct misconceptions about flood mitigation.</p>

Timeline for recent & upcoming PDIP activities:

Upcoming activity targets	Timing
Further geotechnical investigations	Completed
Design for new dam wall	Preliminary design progressing
Detailed business case for new dam wall	Expected to be completed mid-2026
Quarry investigations	Program progressing

Actions noted at this meeting and pending from the previous meeting

New actions			
Action		Responsibility	Status
1	Sunwater to confirm Citrus Australia membership details	Sunwater	Open
2	Sunwater to share Bundaberg Scheme Distribution Capacity upgrade customer survey results	Sunwater	Open
3	Sunwater to check that David Arthur's details are accurate on member mailing list	Sunwater	Open
4	Sunwater to share examples of utilisation calculations at various points across the year compared to annualised calculations	Sunwater	Open
5	Sunwater to advise customers on how to provide information to Sunwater to compliment demand and utilisation understanding for the business case	Sunwater	Open
6	Sunwater to further consider urban growth and implications for High Priority demand	Sunwater	Open
7	Members to raise any concerns with the Chair regarding the proposal for OCG to become permanent guests at future meetings	Members	Open
8	Sunwater to circulate contact details for OCG provided in the meeting slide pack	Sunwater	Open
9	Sunwater to share Operations update slides with members	Sunwater	Open
10	Sunwater to share website links to water quality information	Sunwater	Open
11	Sunwater to consider opportunities for additional communications on Paradise Dam not being a flood mitigation dam and will share drafts with councils before publishing	Sunwater	Open
Existing actions			
Action		Responsibility	Action
Sept 25	Sunwater to ensure all PDRG members receive notification of the public consultation timeframe for draft IAR.	Sunwater	Open
February 24	Future presentations to include information on local traineeships and apprenticeships	Sunwater	Open
June 23	Sunwater to arrange for the selected construction partner to share information about strategies around local training and apprenticeships	Sunwater	Pending
Nov22	Sunwater to consider recreation legacy options in consultation with NBRC as the project progresses	Sunwater	Ongoing