

MACALISTER CUSTOMER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 193
Held 10.00am Tuesday 26 July 2022
SRW, Maffra

PRESENT

Mrs Raelene Hanratty, Chair
Mr Norm Drew
Ms Kate Lamb
Mr Alan Clyne
Mr Graeme Anderson, OAM, via MS Teams
Mrs Jeannette Howie, via MS Teams
Mr Brad White

SRW Representatives

Mr Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director
Mr Simon Wilkinson, Acting General Manager Service Delivery
Mr Matthew Cook, Acting Manager Water Supply East
Mr Craig Smith, Manager Strategy & Business Planning, via MS Teams
Mrs Pamela Crawford, Customer Relations Officer

APOLOGIES

Ms Joanne Butterworth-Gray, SRW Board Chair
Mr Benn Thexton, Deputy Chair
Mr Steve Dwyer

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES; AGENDA LISTING

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and waters of the MID.

The Committee noted the apologies.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr Alan Clyne declared an interest in the Newry pipeline project.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 24 May 2022**.

Moved: Mr G Anderson

Seconded: Mr A Clyne

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting	Agenda Item #	Action	Action Officer	Status
April	6	Mrs Crawford to co-ordinate the creation of a Conflict of Interest table for the agenda.	Crawford	Ongoing Members to contact Mrs Crawford with any additional COI's.
April	6.6	<i>Mr Wilkinson to include a definition and map of the Thomson Macalister system in the MCCC workshop pack.</i>	Wilkinson	Complete

6. PRINCIPAL MATTERS

6.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The Chair provided a report which included:
 - A MID Modernisation PCG meeting update where it was identified that work was continuing on auditing the water savings from Phase 1B. This could see up to 10GL available in early 2023. Mrs Hanratty said the water, once audited, should be made available and advertised as soon as possible.
 - An update that the Pricing Submission subcommittee was to be held in the afternoon of the 26 July 2022.
 - The launch of the SRW website and some disappointment that the Committee did not get advised before it was launched.
 - Recognition of the resignation of Mr Hugh Christie. Mrs Hanratty said Mr Christie has been a great support for the MIA and MCCC. On behalf of the MCCC we wish him well.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT ISSUES OR ACTIONS

- There are no significant current issues or actions.

6.3 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD

- The current Pricing Submission status has been referred by the board for feedback. This is included as an item on the agenda.

6.4 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

- Mr Simon Wilkinson, Acting General Manager Service Delivery provided an update including:
 - End of season wrap up (report included with agenda).
 - Minimal water was used this season, with 2021-22 deliveries being the lowest recorded since the late 1950's.
 - Approximately 626,000ML was released down the river through the season. This was a positive outcome for environmental freshes.

- Mrs Hanratty said that this information needs to be communicated to the public to dispel the rumour that farmers are causing the Blue Green Algae issues in the Gippsland Lakes.

6.5 SALINITY UPDATE

- Mr Matt Cook, Acting Manager Water Supply East presented the Salinity Update, which was included with the agenda to the Committee.

The following was discussed:

- The 2021-22 season was wetter than average which has impacted the level of the water table in areas across the MIA.
- The operation and maintenance of the groundwater pumps are now managed through the Manager of Water Supply.
- The CMA have compiled salinity mapping for the MIA. The mapping illustrates salinity occurrence over a 3 year period.
- The Committee noted that salinity impacts will be felt on farms once conditions dry out.
- Mr Cook noted that AgVic was already preparing plans to manage this issue.
- It was questioned who funds the replacement and monitoring of the infrastructure. Mr Cook said monitoring is funded through the CMA. Replacements need to go through the SRW capital planning process and funding sourced.

6.6 PRICING SUBMISSION - FINAL PRICE PROPOSALS

- Mr Craig Smith, Manager Strategy and Business Planning, joined the meeting and presented the Pricing Submission final price proposals.
- The following was discussed:
 - Customer engagement has now been completed. SRW is now reporting back the findings to Customer Committees and Customer Reference Groups.
 - The tariff structure is currently being finalised. The intention is to deliver the draft submission to the Board at its August meeting, with the final proposal to be presented to the September Board meeting before submission with the ESC.
 - Mr Smith discussed customer feedback which included:
 - Reliable supply of water at a fair and reasonable price.
 - A 1% per annum productivity saving.
 - A commitment to maintain current staffing levels.
 - Meeting current obligations.
 - A capital program that focusses on compliance-based projects.
 - Indication that the investment SRW and federal governments are making on modernisation works is understood and support of the pricing proposal of a 1.5% year on year increase (plus CPI) that will be used to support completion of modernisation works.
 - More efficient ways will be explored for delivering the Salinity Program. The consultation highlighted that education about the program is required.
 - Customers have asked for more investment in the drainage program.

- There was support from the Committee for the proposals presented by Mr Smith. It was commented that SRW have done a good job at keeping the costs in hand. This is the first time in some years there has been an increase.

6.7 MODERNISATION UPDATE

- Mr Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director, led discussions.
 - A paper will be presented to the Board next week with a proposed pathway forward for phase 2 works.
 - The next step after going to the Board is to gain DELWP approval to communicate the pathway, which may take some time.
 - The Committee discussed co-contributions and the negotiation of final contracts. Mr Cook said that these discussions will take priority.
 - Mr FitzGerald said he greatly appreciates all the work Mr Cook has put into this project and his commitment to communicating with affected customers.

6.8 FEBRUARY WORKSHOP PACK – COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE

- Mr Wilkinson advised some feedback has been received and is happy to receive more over the coming week.
- The document will then be published and be made available on the SRW website.
- The Committee briefly discussed education in schools. Mr Wilkinson advised that education packs have been developed and will be circulated to schools. A copy will be sent with the minutes.

7.0 FOR NOTING

7.1 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Committee noted that there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

7.2 FEEDBACK REGISTER (RELEVANT TO MID)

- The Committee noted that there was no feedback since the last meeting.

7.3 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- The Committee noted the Communications report.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Chair referred to the conflict-of-interest table and invited members to declare other interests before opening the floor to General Business. No other interests were declared.
- Timing for election of Chair and Deputy Chair.
 - Mr Wilkinson sought feedback from the Committee on when to hold the election of Chair or Deputy Chair and it was agreed that it would be best to hold off until later in the year after recruitment of new members had occurred.

- The Committee agreed to wait until recruitment had been finalised to hold the election.
- The need for diversity within the Committee, from all areas of the MIA and industries, was discussed.

- The Committee discussed the new SRW website. The Committee are asked to provide any feedback through Mrs Crawford.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting No. 194 of the Macalister Customer Consultative Committee is scheduled for 10.00 am on Tuesday 27 September 2022.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Chairpersons report
- Annual financial report
- Manager Water Supply Update
- Environment water release strategy

Meeting	Date
MCCC 194	Tuesday, 27 th September 2022
MCCC 195	Tuesday, 25 th October 2022
MCCC 196	Tuesday, 13 th December 2022

10.0 MEETING CLOSE

With there being no further business the meeting closed at 11.54am.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST TABLE

Name of Committee member	Description of interest	Interested parties	Is the interest current?
Kate Lamb	Beef grazing operation in Denison	Kate Lamb	Yes
Raelene Hanratty	Owens irrigation land at Upper Maffra West and Newry	Water Share holder	Yes
	SRW Project Control Group.	SRW and DELWP	Yes
	Deputy Chair RDA Gippsland	Federal & State Governments	Yes
	Deputy Chair RFCS Gippsland	Farmers and Small Businesses	Yes
Brad White	Owner of irrigated farm business in Riverslea	Brad White	Yes

	July 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Dec 2021	Feb 2022	April 2022	May 2022	July 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Dec 2022
Raelene Hanratty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Graeme Anderson	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓			
Stephen Dwyer	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol		Apol	Apol			
Jeanette Howie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓			
Norm Drew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Alan Clyne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Kate Lamb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Brad White	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓			
Benn Thexton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol			

- ✓ Attended Meeting
- Apol Notification of apology
- Blank Did not attend