

MACALISTER CUSTOMER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 194
Held 10.00am Tuesday 27 September 2022
SRW, Maffra

PRESENT

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

SRW Representatives

Mr Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director
Mr Simon Wilkinson, General Manager Service Delivery
Mr Wayne Fleming, Manager Asset Reliability
Mrs Pamela Crawford, Customer Relations Officer

APOLOGIES

Ms Joanne Butterworth-Gray, SRW Board Chair
Mr Matthew Cook, Acting Manager Water Supply East
Mr Benn Thexton, Deputy Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Gavin Prior, DEWLP for item 6.4

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 A Clyne, Mr S Dwyer and Mrs R Hanratty for Phase 2 works.

No further conflicts were declared.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 26 July 2022**.

Moved: Mr A Clyne **Seconded:** Mr N Drew

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	Completed. Conflict of Interest will be a standard item at the start of each meeting and at the commencement of general business.

The Environment Release strategy will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. PRINCIPAL MATTERS

6.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mrs Hanratty attended the PCG meeting with DELWP. DELWP is happy with how the project is progressing, acknowledging potential cost and time issues.
- Mrs Hanratty wasn't able to attend the Jaydo meet and greet, however other members attended who reported that Jaydo will now make time to meet with customers individually.
- It was questioned if there is a new community Committee being formed regarding water for Avon. Mr FitzGerald and Mr Wilkinson said they were not aware of this Committee and will endeavour to find out more information and will report back to the committee at a future meeting.
- The Committee highlighted that over the last few years the MIA has seen good rainfall contributing to good reliability of supply. This should not however, cloud the requirement for in-depth investigations on underlying demand before any Avon expansion decision is made.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT ISSUES OR ACTIONS

- There are no current significant current issues or actions.

6.3 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE BOARD

- Mr FitzGerald advised that the Pricing Submission has been the main focus of the Board and will be submitted to the Essential Services Commission by 30 September 2022.

6.4 GUEST PRESENTATION – PLACE OF TAKE PROJECT

- Ms Penny Clark and Mr Gavin Prior from DELWP joined the meeting to discuss the Place of Take project which involves changes to the Victorian Water Act.

- Ms Clark advised that the Water and Catchment legislation amendment Act 2021, was approved in October 2021 and covers the Thomson, Macalister and Werribee irrigation systems for SRW.
- Changes relate to delivery rights and market transparency and will come into effect by 1 July 2023.
- The changes meet government commitments to improve market transparency and addresses weaknesses in delivery rights from unbundling.
- All existing water users will get a Place of Take approval.
- DELWP will provide ongoing consultation in partnership with SRW through direct communications to customers and via a newly formed Customer Consultative Committee for the duration of the project. The Committee will be established to seek feedback on the development of new rules.

The Committee noted the following:

- A need to ensure that southern irrigation districts and customers requirements are considered on their own merit rather than grouped up with the north.
- Agreement that it was good to have Mr Gavin Prior assisting with the project given his knowledge of the Macalister system and that Mr Prior is happy to discuss changes with individuals.

6.5 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

- Mr Simon Wilkinson, General Manager Service Delivery provided an operational update which included.
 - The progression of the water trading platform trial project which has gone out for tender and is currently being evaluated. It was noted that the Committee will be updated on the next steps in due course.
 - Water allocation and delivery status to date. There has been above average rainfall and therefore water deliveries are well down again similar to last season.
 - Mr Anderson cautioned that some areas have not received the rainfall that other areas have and this should be taken into consideration when modelling.

6.6 CENTRAL AND GIPPSLAND REGION SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY

- The Managing Director, Mr FitzGerald, provided an update on the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy, which included discussing the main commitments of modernising the district, creation of the Maffra fishway and the continued investigation into opportunities in the Latrobe system and expansion opportunities in the Avon.
Mr FitzGerald reinforced SRW's active involvement in the development of the strategy through the consultative committee.
- The allocation of water for cultural values. Mr FitzGerald said that registered Traditional Owners are represented on the Committee. The Water is Life policy, outlines the Government policy on Traditional Owners and states that Traditional Owners need to be considered when allocating new water.
- The Committee also discussed the opportunities presented in the Latrobe system specifically the 3 / 4 Bench that was set aside for coal industry expansion, which is no longer happening.

6.7 PRICING SUBMISSION UPDATE

- Discussed at item 6.3.

6.8 CRITICAL ASSETS PRESENTATION

- Mr Wayne Fleming, Manager Asset Reliability, joined the meeting to discuss critical assets in the MIA.
- Mr Fleming spoke to a presentation which included the following.
 - Largest and most critical assets are being investigated first.
 - Have so far rated over 11,000 assets within the MIA out of a total of 20,000 have been looked at.
 - 80 critical assets were deemed in poor condition. These assets have been prioritised for renewal in the price submission.
 - SRW is moving to proactively maintaining the asset base and is implementing an inspection and maintenance plan for the business.
 - Critical regulator replacement program.
 - 1000 regulators and offtakes in the MID.
 - 128 sites have been deemed high criticality.
 - The works have been included in the 25 year Capital Plan.

7.0 FOR NOTING

7.1 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Committee noted there has been no correspondence since the last meeting.

7.2 FEEDBACK REGISTER (RELEVANT TO MID)

- The Committee noted there has been no feedback since the last meeting.

7.3 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- The Committee noted the Communications report.
- Mrs Hanratty requested an action be noted regarding her previously made comment concerning how much water went down the river, and its positive environmental affects, be made public.

ACTION – Volume of water released down river and it's positive environmental affects to be made public.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Chair referred to conflict-of-interest and invited members to declare other interests based on the general business items to be discussed.
- The Committee discussed the type of interests that should be declared.
- Mrs Howie requested that it be noted that she does not have any conflicts of interest for this meeting.
- SRW Communications

- The Committee discussed SRW Communications, particularly the storage capacity figures on the website which have not been updated.
- MIA Booklet, inclusion of 2003 Board policy
 - Mr Drew stated that the Board policy, included as an appendix, is not necessary in the booklet. The MIA is one declared irrigation district.
 - Mr FitzGerald said the MIA is one district and that allocation decisions on future water savings will have equal access to all irrigators.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting No. 195 of the Macalister Customer Consultative Committee is scheduled for 10.00 am on Tuesday 25 October 2022.

Meeting	Date
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 12.30pm.

	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	Apol		

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

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