

Nogoa Mackenzie Irrigation Customer Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday 12 November 2024

Time: 9:00am – 10:30am

Location: St Lukes Anglican Church 40 Theresa Street, Emerald

Attendees: Robert Ingram, Peter Galea, Dan Pymble (FIN Water), Misha Grayson (FIN Water), Ross Burnett, Taylor Cairns (Ensham), Neville Brownlie, Kodi Warner Magnussen, Cameron Geddes, Nathan Litzow, Taylor Pressler, Hamish Milner.

Sunwater representatives: Bailey McBeth Cooper (Operations Manager Nogoa Mackenzie), Charlene Pearse (Customer Engagement Coordinator), Sarah O’Grady (Stakeholder Relations Advisor)

Apologies: George Sypler, Les Fluerty, Neil Dale, Matthew Barner, Neek Morawitz.

Minutes:

Agenda items		
Item no.	Item	Presenter
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting open 	Bailey McBeth Cooper (BMC)
2	Terms of Reference – Customer Advisory Committee	BMC
3	Announced Allocations	BMC
4	Service and Performance Plans	BMC
5	Sunwater Touchpoint Customer Survey 2024	Sarah O’Grady
6	General business	All
7	Meeting close	BMC

1. Meeting open

- Acknowledgement of Country delivered.
- Attendees were introduced.
- Sunwater gave an overview of the agenda.
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2. Terms of Reference

- Sunwater shared an overview of how the new CAC format would work and the benefits, all members accepted this at the meeting.
- CAC to meet three (3) times per year unless otherwise determined by the Committee.
- Meeting agenda will be sent by Sunwater seven days prior to each meeting.

3. Announced Allocations

- Sunwater presented the current Announced Allocations and storage levels.
- Member enquired about usage pattern calculations and if there is a simple conversion chart. Sunwater clarified that the draw down model is based on similar usage patterns from previous years. Further, low level pumps are required on the right bank below 191.21 mAHD. Member requested conversion chart of Dam Level (mAHD) to Percentage Volume.
- Member enquired why there was a significant volume of carryover and a high percentage of allocation from the previous water year carried over this time. Sunwater explained that this is due to high usage from the previous water year meaning that there was less remaining allocation, and due to storage levels in Fairbairn Dam that carryover volume was 150,000 ML. A member also advised that the high usage was due to allocation being available earlier in the water year.
- Member requested data on previous carryover volumes and percentage of allocation carried over for prior years.

Carryover for the Nogoa Mackenzie Scheme:

From	To	Remaining balance from (ML)	Carryover cap (excluding losses) (ML)	Carryover made available (including losses) (ML)	% Carryover made available of Remaining balance
2014-2015	2015-2016	94,584	150,000	42,172	45%
2015-2016	2016-2017	86,020	150,000	43,166	50%
2016-2017	2017-2018	99,178	150,000	57,417	58%
2017-2018	2018-2019	106,310	75,000	64,345	61%
2018-2019	2019-2020	143,084	75,000	65,381	46%
2019-2020	2020-2021	69,639	25,000	20,030	29%
2020-2021	2021-2022	119,618	75,000	60,691	51%
2021-2022	2022-2023	169,102	75,000	58,736	35%
2022-2023	2023-2024	187,767	150,000	137,217	73%
2023-2024	2024-2025	170,613	150,000	145,530	85%

4. Service and Performance Plans (S&PPs)

- Sunwater presented the 2024 slides on the performance of the scheme.
- Link to the S&PPs presented during the meeting can be found on Sunwater website - [2024 Service and Performance Plan - Nogoa Bulk Water Service Contract](#)
- Sunwater presented on historical water usage.
- Annuity funded expenditure: Member enquired about annuity revenue and the sustainability of spending above QCA forecasts. Sunwater provided a brief update, stating all efforts were made to adhere to the budget. Sunwater went through the list of budget vs actual spend. Members noted Sunwater spent above QCA budget for most items.
- Funded projects: Sunwater went through the budgeted vs actual projects. Member questioned why two studies were not combined to create efficiencies. Member requested that Sunwater undertake an audit focused on annuity-funded projects that seemed to overlap. Members mentioned that the figures seem excessive. Sunwater explained that it follows internal procedures, legislation and other standards as part of its procurement and delivery of annuity funded projects. Further, Sunwater explained that budgets noted in the SP&P utilised values originally noted in the previous Irrigation Price Path, therefore there are differences as scopes are further understood, or unforeseen repairs need to be undertaken.
- Members asked about riverbank erosion at Fairbairn Dam and where exactly it was on the bend. Sunwater noted it was located where the spillway is and was completed in July 2024.
- Member questioned the expenses with regards to ALARP (as low as reasonably practicable). Sunwater noted that some sites have identified risks so may be ongoing costs.
- Member asked about dam wall instrumentation project. Sunwater advised that most of the instrumentation was installed when the dam was constructed. Requested schedule for replacement.
- Outlet refurbishments: Member asked about the outlet. Sunwater mentioned they are for the weirs.
- Facility costs (recreation areas): Member asked about a review on the costs as they seem excessive. Sunwater noted that costs are not forwarded to the irrigators.
- Sunwater presented on Fairbairn Dam recreation area and LN1 Drain Transfer. Central Highlands Regional Council has declined the offer from Sunwater to take ownership. Sunwater has a grant from the Queensland Government to improve Sunwater recreational areas, and a review is currently underway to determine approach and scope for Fairbairn Dam.

5. Sunwater Touchpoint Customer Survey 2024

- The Touchpoint Survey opened 1 November and closes 30 November 2024.

6. General Business

- Sunwater provided update about meter replacements. Member questioned installation costs. Sunwater explained the meters are Siemens and local contractors/Sunwater staff will install them.
- 20 meters installed are back to base compatible, with two units now relaying back to base. Sunwater explained that the aim is to get 80% of water usage back to base, to improve efficiency.
- Member asked if the allocation has been reassessed, BMC advised that allocation will be reassessed monthly or following any inflows into storage.

6.1. Minutes and 2025 CAC dates

- Sunwater noted minutes will be reviewed and published on the Sunwater website and sent to members.
- Member noted their preference for the next meeting to be held in February 2025.

7. Actions:

Action item	Action Owner	Status of Action
Sunwater to provide more details on the average performance graph, data is available on our website: Sunwater Storage Forecast	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to provide a conversion chart between mAHD (Levels) and percentage of FSL.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to review historical data on carryover and share it in the minutes provide data round the previous 10 years.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	In Progress
Sunwater to verify the frequency of Active Anchor Retesting for Fairbairn Dam – The current monitoring interval is in accordance with ANCOLD guidelines at 5 years, however depending on results of testing frequencies maybe changed.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to confirm final costs for the Fairbairn Dam Nogoa River Erosion Repairs - \$369,090 final cost of project.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to provide more information about the scope of the various Dam Safety Projects noted in the SP&P.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	
Sunwater to confirm the current schedule for the Dam Instrumentation Project – five yrs for the statewide program, however with project still in definition phase the exact timeframes for each asset will vary as the program is defined. Priority of the Dams, and costs will be based on asset review and ALARP Studies.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to update members on costs and work scope for replacement of lighting and power replacement for Recreational Facility toilet blocks noted in the FY26 Budget for the SP&P – Project Scope originally defined as the complete replacement of the Light and Power Switch Boards for the Recreational Facility Toilet Blocks and Pumps, however with external funding arrangements through the QLD Government Grant this scope maybe changed.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed
Sunwater to advise if any change in the QCA Irrigation Price Path Process, with change of Government that Sunwater is aware of.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	In progress
Sunwater (CP) to invite Brodie Shepherd to next CAC meeting to present on the meter replacement project.	Charlene Pearse	In Progress
Sunwater to provide clarity around High Priority Transmission and Operational Allowance (TOAH) and Transmission Operating Loss (TOL) noted in the operational reports – TOAH is not utilised in the Nogoa Mackenzie AA Calculations, however, was included in the Operational Reports. It has now been removed from the operational reports to avoid confusion.	Bailey McBeth-Cooper	Completed

8. Meeting close

- Meeting closed at 10.30am

9. Approval and review

Chair:	Bailey McBeth Cooper
Minutes:	Charlene Pearse
Date:	12 November 2024