

WSC MEETING SUMMARY



COMMITTEE NAME	Loddon Valley Water Services Committee (WSC)
MEETING DATE	22 August 2016
ATTENDEES	<p>WSC members: John Nelson (Chair), Laurie Maxted (Deputy Chair), Robert Moon, Ken Pattison, Bill Diss, Murray Haw and Ron Vinnicombe.</p> <p>GMW Attendees: David Currie (Customer Service Manager Loddon), Daniel Irwin (Head of Customer Service and Operations), Mark Bailey (Manager Water Resources) and Dennis Moon (GMW Board member).</p> <p>Guest: Richard Anderson (VFF – Water Council Chairman)</p>
APOLOGIES	Chris Harrison and Alan Mann.

Main Topics Discussed

Victorian Farmers Federation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Anderson provided an overview of the work undertaken by the VFF in the past 12 months and spoke with the committee about the Connections Project within Loddon Valley. There was discussion around asking GMW to consider setting up working groups to look at key issues of the Infrastructure Access Fee (IAF) and delivery shares.
Water resource position and climate outlook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMW provided the committee with an update on storage levels in the Murray and Goulburn systems, outlining which trading zones can trade with NSW and also the constraints of the Barmah Choke and water being taken up downstream of this point. The committee discussed the Reserve Policy and the need to have this reviewed, to determine the right time to set water aside for channel losses and also the amount set aside. Discussion also took place around the release of water from storages during times of flood mitigation, resulting from the filling curves for storages and why this water is not being deducted from the Environmental Water Holder.
WSC workshop feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee liked the format of having round table discussion with other WSC members – which showed that many WSCs were working along similar lines for their community and customers. The committee liked that many GMW staff, Board members and other agencies stated they were there to listen to WSCs and take on issues raised. The committee advised it was good to hear issues being spoken about and in some cases, options explored with WSCs on each table. The committee raised that there are still a number of issues with the Connections Project and its reset. The committee would like greater input into the remaining channels and providing solutions. The committee suggested a tour along with the workshop to help understand issues.

Other Items to Note

Board visits

- The committee would like to see the GMW Board visit each irrigation area, undertake a tour of the area and hold a Board meeting at the GMW area office, as well as a dinner with GMW area management and WSC.
- The committee believe that with the Board visiting one area per year is too lengthy to travel around WSCs.

Works and maintenance

- The committee discussed the works taking place on the Waranga Western Channel in relation to the syphon at Lockington Rd and the future requirement to the new works.
- The committee provided positive feedback on the de-silting program that has taken place in Loddon Valley over the past three winters. They believe the de-silting program should continue, as many customers have had better channel performance as a result.