

WSC MEETING SUMMARY



COMMITTEE NAME	Loddon Campaspe Regional WSC
MEETING DATE	21 June 2017 – Kangaroo Flat
ATTENDEES	<p>WSC: Norm Suckling (Chair), Andrew Maher (Deputy Chair), Karl Hooke, Tim Harrington, Ross McKinstry, Tom Walsh, Hilary Jankelson, Garry Addlem,</p> <p>Guests:</p> <p>GMW: Dale McGraw Customer Service Manager Diversions – West, Peter Watson Customer Service Coordinator Diversions – West, Luke Boehm Water Resource officer Groundwater & Streams, Bob Knowles Water Resource Officer Regulated Systems, Phil Hoare acting Head of Customer service & Operations, Andrew Shields Manager River Operations</p>
APOLOGIES	Richard Carter

Main Topics Discussed

WSC Season Reflections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WSC members provided an update on how the season was developing in their particular areas of the catchment ➤ There was general consensus that rain was urgently required on cropping land ➤ Groundwater customers with overhead irrigators are likely to recommence pumping in the coming week if rain does not arrive as forecast

GMW Strategic Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair Norm Suckling provided an overview of the progression of the GMW Strategic Plan ➤ The GMW Future Strategic Plan “What we have heard so far” document was provided to members. ➤ Discussion occurred as to whether Regional WSC members concerns had been captured within the document. ➤ GMW explained the relationship of the document and the subsequent processes yet to occur ➤ Members were advised that there were in excess of 2,500 line items of feedback and comments captured as part of the preliminary sessions which they were involved in. ➤ All of the members expressed their appreciation for the ability to contact their local Diversion Inspector due to their extensive knowledge of local matters and their understanding of processes.

Pricing Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WSC members were updated on the submission to the ESC of the 2017/18 pricing schedule. ➤ There was a general feeling that the WSC was not able to provide input into the submission due to the postponement of the 3 May regional meeting. ➤ Lengthy discussion was held in relation to the relationship of CPI and increases to customers prices ➤ Members acknowledged that the ESC has endorsed the revenue cap, however the WSC would like to have more involvement in how the costs are recovered ➤ The relationship of fees across various catchments and basin pricing was discussed ➤ The WSC requested that representatives from the Finance Group attend the next meeting to address a list of questions that will be developed and submitted in advance ➤ GMW informed the members of the detail and rationale for the changes to the service point descriptions within the 2017/18 fee schedule. Service points previously described as “Small” will now be classified “Unmetered”; and service points previously classified “Large” will now be renamed “Metered (excluding D&S)”. The changes were fully supported by the regional members. ➤ Consultation strategies were discussed in regards to the development of GMW’s Water Plan’s.

Loddon Bulk Entitlement Review – Bob Knowles

- Updated the meeting on the development of a paper which recommends the review of the Loddon Bulk Entitlement.
- The document has been made available to various stakeholders
- Discussions will continue with those stakeholders who have an interest in the review. It is hoped that any changes made to the Bulk Entitlement can be introduced at the start of the 2018/19 irrigation season.
- The WSC provided their united support for the proposed review and recommended areas of focus within the report.

Groundwater Resources Update – Luke Boehm

- Luke Boehm provided an update on the current groundwater resources.
- Following a wet 2016 winter period, most of the trigger bores responded favourably
- Concern was again raised as to the accuracy and representation of the Newlyn Zone trigger bore.
- Members were advised that the existing 20% loss rule for unregulated trades is under consideration and is likely to be revoked. The withdrawal of the rule is supported by relevant stakeholders. WSC members provided their endorsement to the change.
- The committee was informed as to how the minimum passing flow requirements associated with unregulated licences is calculated. Concern was raised by the chair of the meeting that the methodology was flawed due to the nature and variation within the catchments.
- Further clarification will be provided as to what process was followed to establish the existing volumes on licences as part of the recent Annual Licence Project (ALP)
- Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the consultation process and changes made to unregulated licences under the ALP.