

# WSC MEETING SUMMARY



<b>COMMITTEE NAME</b>	Murray Valley
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p><b>WSC Members:</b> Jason Andrew(Chair), Patrick Connolly (Deputy Chair), Alan Hendy, Rodney McCracken, Paulette McIntosh, Iwan Van Den Berg, Alastair Whittington, Andrew Routley</p> <p><b>GMW Attendees:</b>            Brendan Brooks (Customer Service Manager, Murray Valley)            Ann Telford (Executive Manager Strategic Engagement)            Simon Cowan (Manager Drainage Systems)            Carolyn Nigro (Drainage Program Coordinator)</p>
<b>GUESTS</b>	Amabelle Grinter (Potential new WSC member)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Peter Clydesdale (Interim General Manager Water Delivery) Rabi Maskey (DEDJTR)

## Main Topics Discussed

<b>Drainage projects - Carolyn Nigro</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the WSC on the surface drainage projects in progress across the SIR.</li> <li>Mosquito Drain 40 completed, and Upper Deakin, Cornella Creek and Guilfus Congupna DCDs progressing.</li> <li>Murray Valley have two Muckatah CSWMS projects.</li> <li>Muckatah 2/3P currently under construction with target finish around Easter.</li> <li>Muckatah 3/8P in consultation and design review phase with lessons learnt from 2/3P being applied.</li> <li>WSC advised that a DCD at Murray Valley Drain 11 catchment north of Nathalia is the next major project, but won't proceed until adequate funding is confirmed.</li> </ul>
<b>Sub surface rationalisation project – Simon Cowan</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the committee on the sub surface pilot rationalisation projects.</li> <li>Murray Valley IA has 20 pumps (10 inside and 10 outside the future salinity risk zone).</li> <li>Robust and defensible criteria was required to support the pump deactivation process.</li> <li>Stage 1 – deactivation works on 10 pumps outside the salinity risk zone, and approval to remove variable SSC from 70 customers (south of Cobram).</li> <li>Stage 2 – deactivation works on 10 pumps inside the salinity risk zone, seek approval for other customers in the central Murray Valley to have variable charges removed by March 2020.</li> <li>WSC pleased this project is finally progressing as high water table risk is remote due to climate, irrigation practices and significant sale of water from the area.</li> <li>WP5 consultation to review the appropriate future service tariff.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement strategy– Ann Telford</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided an introduction to her role with GMW and the purpose of the engagement strategy which includes tariff for WP5, GMW transformation and delivery share review.</li> <li>GMW board and management are committed to a transparent process with appropriate responses to customer issues raised through consultation.</li> <li>The WSC worked through the 5 questions provided at the Chairs and Deputies meeting.</li> <li>WSC recognise that ESC require GMW to engage with the broad customer base but also believe they are well placed to provide irrigator representation and feedback.</li> <li>WSC feel that the plan for workshops may not get much support given the angst in irrigation communities due to drought, basin plan, high water prices etc.</li> </ul>

- WSC felt they need direction and clarity on future role. To be valued there needs to be two-way interaction and discussion between Board and WSC.

#### **General Business – 75GL**

- Discussion on the return of 75GL to irrigators. Committee were undecided on what will provide the best long term benefit to customers. Some options discussed included:
  - Option A: Sale of the water (\$375m – 75000\*\$5000) and investment of the money to reduce fees (\$18m annually at 5%)
  - Option B: Transfer of water shares to irrigators (5ML per one delivery share)
  - Option C: 75GL of water allocation made available to GMID irrigators only
- The WSC look forward to reading a document paper outlining all practical options that can assist members with informed recommendations to GMW. The financial benefits to customers of various scenarios will be a key consideration to any recommendation.
- **The options listed above are not in any priority order**