

WSC MEETING SUMMARY



COMMITTEE NAME	Murray Valley
MEETING DATE	Wednesday 17 February 2021
ATTENDEES	<p>WSC Members: Jason Andrew(Chair), Patrick Connolly, Paulette McIntosh, Alan Hendy, Andrew Routley, Iwan Van den Berg</p> <p>GMW Attendees: Warren Blyth (General Manager Water Delivery Services) Greg Shannon (Manager Distribution Services) Brendan Brooks (Manager Distribution East) Andrew Cooper (Assistant Manager East) Fabian McCloy (Project Manager – Irrigators Share Distribution) Claire Nihill (Comms and Engagement Project Officer) Andrew Shields (River Operations Manager) Joe Banks (DELWP) Penny Clarke (DELWP) Alex Murray (MDBA) Tyson Milne (MDBA) Ben Dyer (MDBA) Joseph Davis (MDBA)</p>
GUESTS	Rabi Maskey (DEDJTR)
APOLOGIES	Amabel Grinter (WSC)

Main Topics Discussed

Deliverability Risks Report – Joe Banks & Ben Dyer

- Joe explained the deliverability risks pose two types of shortfall (acute & chronic) and both MDBA and the basin states have different responsibilities in managing the risk
- Supply and demand have changed over the past 10/20 years – Reduced Barmah Choke capacity and water resource from Menindee lakes plus Horticulture crops are increasing and more water for irrigation & the environment downstream of Barmah is required
- Menindee supplied 44% of water in summer peak to SA but now that has reduced to 20%
- Increased trade (300GL IVT) to meet pre basin plan recovery demand is contributing to the damage to natural waterways such as the Lower Goulburn river
- Ben Dyer explained the findings of the investigation to the reduced capacity of the Barmah choke which has reduced from 11,500ML/d in 1980 to 10,500ML/d mid 1990s and 9,200ML/d in 2019
- A large volume of sediment gradually moving downstream from Yarrawonga is causing the restriction
- The key findings of the deliverability risks report released in November 2020 summarise the shortfall risks and identify the actions and priorities for government
- Some discussion around the Broken Creek measurement for environmental water and calculation of losses
- Joe advised that Broken creek flows will be part of the Goulburn to Murray trade rule review
- GMW to recheck gate tips on outfall regs along the creek system – prior to next meeting

Irrigators Share Distribution – Fabian McCloy & Claire Nihill

- Fabian explained the Irrigators share is the 75GL LTAAY dividend from stage 1 Connections project
- Customers with >0.25 dse will receive approx. 4ml of HRWS & 1.8ml of LRWS and those with <0.25 a cash benefit payment
- Customers will receive the water shares in October 2021 with the allocation for 21/22
- In completing the dividend distribution project work includes quantifying and confirming the water savings from the project and then working through the process of distributing water share to the beneficiaries.
- Customers can check and confirm their delivery share (IAF) by reviewing their 20/21 fixed charges or contacting GMW. Water Shares likely to be distributed against main ABA
- Claire explained the communications timelines for the project to ensure all stakeholders are informed
- An online customer calculator to be made available to assist beneficiaries establish the water shares they will receive from their delivery share holding
- Discussion around existing customer aged debt and eligibility to participate in the water share distribution (working with the legal)

Loss Allowance Review – Andrew Shields

- Provided background on the GMW bulk entitlement and allowances for distribution losses
- Reviews were conducted in 2007 and 2013 but the findings were not implemented
- Original loss allowance is overdue with Connections project wrapping up and GMW / DELWP are collaborating to ensure there are enough losses for the Murray system
- Graphs were provided showing the data and proposed future loss volumes
- A table indicating some impacts around seasonal determinations – more water available when allocation is low but slightly less in wet years
- Next steps, finalise technical paper, present to GMW Board and WSC in February
- Previous presentation provided to the committee at the November WSC meeting 2020

Operations Update – Brendan Brooks

- Provided the committee with an update on water delivered for irrigation and environment in both Shepp and MV systems
- Staff completing meter readings for variable charges and have completed approx. 4000 work orders including corrective and preventative maintenance on regs and meters during season
- Desilting and arrowhead spraying on a number of smaller channels by IDS / spray teams
- Successful acrolein injection in the MV 5 main to reduce submerged weed has improved channel performance – monitoring channels in case any other treatment is required
- Planning for increased water delivery in autumn with significant water availability
- East team are planning winter maintenance activities and dewatering program to manage weeds and complete capital structure and linear programs

Other Items to Note

- Rabi Maskey provided the committee recent DEDJTR activities reports
 - No new application for Whole Farm Plans – opportunity for limited funding
 - Land use mapping in the GMID – Stage 2 Survey – approx. 400 customers randomly selected with 130 survey's returned. Data to be analysed in March

- The WSC discussed current WSC memberships, how to attract new members, the future of WSC and opportunity of amalgamation Murray Valley and Shepparton
- Amabel Grinter has indicated a transfer across to the Central Goulburn WSC due to recently buying a property with her partner in the CG area.
- Paulette McIntosh will continue on WSC until June or July 2021
- Alan Hendy will participate in Farming Working Group 100th meeting via video conference next week

Next meeting

- The next Murray Valley WSC meeting will be 21 April 2021