

WSC MEETING SUMMARY



COMMITTEE NAME	Murray Valley
MEETING DATE	Wednesday 21 April 2021
ATTENDEES	<p>WSC Members: Jason Andrew(Chair), Patrick Connolly, Alan Hendy, Andrew Routley</p> <p>GMW Attendees: Warren Blyth (General Manager Water Delivery Services) Greg Shannon (Manager Distribution Services) Brendan Brooks (Manager Distribution East) Daniel Irwin (General Manager Strategy and Services Planning) Jeremy Nolan (Manager Asset Planning Water Delivery) Peter Egglestone (Engineering & Interface Manager Connections)</p>
GUESTS	Alex Murray (DELWP) Sarah Ryan (DELWP)
APOLOGIES	Andrew Cooper (Assistant Manager East), Rabi Maskey (DEDJTR) WSC - Paulette McIntosh, Iwan Van den Berg

Main Topics Discussed

Goulburn to Murray Trade Rule Review (DELWP) – Sarah Ryan, Alex Murray	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided the WSC with the background to the review, talked about the significant changes occurring in past 20 years and increasing delivery risks to entitlement holders in the Murray. • Discussed the overarching objectives which included identifying long term operating and trade rules to support a sustainable working Goulburn River and the increasing restrictions at the Barmah Choke. • Explained the two part rule which impacts Lower Broken creek customers and the possibility of 1A/6B unrestricted use up until mid-December before creek customers are then subjected to the broader trading rules. • Advised that infrastructure funding could allow Lower Goulburn customer irrigation pumps to be lifted higher to enable peak flows of 6000ML/d instead of 3000ML/d which may increase the 190GL limit to around 250GL? • Provided an overall summary of the information presented and next steps in consultation and decision making. Stakeholder submissions are invited by 30 April 2021 • Given the review decisions will impact the lower Broken Creek customers Alex and Sarah explained that they would be looking to hold smaller group meetings next week to ensure customers understand proposed changes and potential impacts. 	
Channel x Channel Principles – Daniel Irwin, Jeremy Nolan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the draft principles for discussion & to seek feedback from the Committee. • Balancing investment with future usage and maintaining long term sustainability plans. • Asset renewals & maintenance options aligned to responsible investment. (eg 20yr not 50/80yr where applicable) • The progress on the Channel x Channel framework to identify assets. • WSC support principles but advised GMW need to allow for future opportunities and not invest in assets with low utilisation 	
WEP Update – Peter Egglestone	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an update on the WEP program which is now the GMW Water Efficiency Project • Funding is \$1.77 M for 15.9GL LTAAY. Agreements signed 30 March 2021. • Explained the project establishment, stakeholder communications and initial scope of works. • Recruitment of project delivery staff is currently underway. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMW explained that some rationalised flume gates were being repaired and reused as part of the Shepp east program to reduce costs slightly • That approx. 700 meters is still to be upgraded across GMID with approx. 15/20% in Murray valley area
<p>Customer Charter Update – Greg Shannon</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the slight changes to the customer charter including the removal of an overdue notice, ordering water requirements, the GMID map to include Mitiamo pipeline and requirements around family violence.
<p>Single Customer Charge Project Update – Greg Shannon</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the single account format that would be available into 2021/22 season. Customers with multiple properties and services can choose to opt in or opt out with some accounts depending on their business arrangements. • WSC agreed that each property should have an explanation gravity, drainage, groundwater etc • Some discussion was had around the flexibility of payment arrangements and instalments.
<p>Operations issues / weed impacting Autumn supply – GMW and WSC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair highlighted he was concerned with weed spread in Murray Valley number 6 channel and the supply delays to customers during autumn irrigation because of reduced capacity • Concerned that GMW don't have strategy to deal with problem • Members discussed the Imazapyr strategy in 2015 as an example of WSC support to GMW for weed management however that program has stopped • Discussed increased obligations GMW are dealing with before chemical use can be safely used, particularly around fish kills and environmental impacts • Discussion on negotiating harder with chemical companies around label restrictions / impacts given the importance of maintaining irrigation channels for water delivery

Other Items to Note

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Summary – February & March 2021 distributed to members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair advised that he had spoken with Craig Reynolds (Shepp WSC Chair) about potential for combined meeting with both committees in June. The other members supported the initiative

Next meeting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 15/16 2021 - Combined with Shepp WSC
