

# Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Record 19 November 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	19 November 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.02pm	Closed at: 5.24pm
Chair	Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer	
File Ref	F2019/01200	

**Present:**

John Asquith, Ken Brookes, Daryl Mann, Pamela McCann, Michael Redrup

**Council Staff present:**

Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer, Luke Drury – Section Manager Water Services and Design, Natalee Evans – Engineer Water Resource Planning, Satpal Singh – Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

**Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies**

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Apologies received: Nil

The Chair declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

**Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were received.

**Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 12 August 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log with no additional items added.

Jamie Loader provided the Advisory Group with an update on Council's financial liquidity issues and ongoing operation of the Advisory Group.

#### **Item 4 Water Supply System Status Report – November 2020 (Standing Item)**

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Satpal Singh (Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning) provided a presentation on the Water Supply System Status and climate outlook including the following:

- Dam storage levels
- Rainfall statistics
- River extractions
- Status of Important Assets
- Hunter Water Storage and Transfers
- Water Restrictions
- Water Demands
- Rainfall Outlook December 2020
- Max Temperature Outlook December 2020
- Min Temperature Outlook December 2020
- El Nino / La Nina Outlook
- Forecast for Ourimbah Creek Streamflow November to January
- Department of Primary Industry Combined Drought Indicator NSW and Central Coast

#### **Item 5 Update on Water Resilience Works (Standing Item)**

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Luke Drury (Section Manager Water Services and Design) provided the Advisory Group with an update on Water Resilience Works including the following:

- Mardi to Warnervale Pipeline. Over 80% of construction activities completed. Scheduled completion date brought forward to mid-2021.
- Mardi Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. EOI evaluations underway for Design Development and Construct contract. Positive feedback from DPIE on Reference Design. Main works scheduled completion end 2022.
- Mangrove Creek Spillway rectification. Detailed risk based assessments being carried out in accordance with new regs. Finalising investigations including peer review to confirm reduced scope to properly manage risks and reduce capital expenditure while filling to 100%.
- Mooney Dam Water Pump Station. Concept design complete. Detail design and construction phase business case being prepared. Construction scheduled completion end 2023.
- Leak Detection Program (ongoing).
- Drought Response desal readiness. Decision made to change proposed intake structure from horizontal collector wells to direct ocean intake. Preparing contract briefs for direct ocean intake location assessment and supporting studies.
- Recycled water review and refurb.

#### **Item 6 Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) – Revised Engagement Plan for IWRP and IPART Pricing Submission (Action 38)**

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Luke Drury (Section Manager Water Services and Design) provided the Advisory Group with an update on the revised engagement plan for IWRP and IPART Pricing Submission.

## IWRP Engagement

- Scope and requirements for IWRP are set by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), including requirements for community consultation.
- A high-level engagement approach involving deliberative forums has been prepared by Council and has been reviewed by DPIE earlier this year.
- Woolcott Research has been engaged in a single contract to carry out customer research for 2022 IPART submission and IWRP.
- Woolcott Research has experience with Sydney Water on their long-term strategy to ensure water security (2018 – 2020).
- Recently carried out deliberative engagement forums for the Lower Hunter Water Plan, of which Council is a key stakeholder.
- The Deliberative forums will include three phases over four months via zoom. Participants would attend all three phases of the forums.
- Additional telephone in-depth interviews for those unable to participate in virtual forums (for example elderly customers).
- A potential broader survey on options and trade-offs to be confirmed.
- Content to be made available via the YourVoiceOurCoast webpage including an online survey.
- Phase 1 deliberative forums will explore stakeholder attitudes towards restrictions and expected levels of services. Phase 1 will commence Early December 2020.
- Phase 2 deliberative forums will explore views on options (supply and demand) and the associated levels of risk and possible trade-offs. Prioritise decision making criteria eg cost to build, cost to operate, environmental impact, social impact, reliability.
- Phase 3 deliberative forums will present portfolios, explore views on options and the associated levels of risk and possible trade offs in line with the priorities eg cost to build, cost to operate, environmental impact, social impact, reliability.
- Participants will be recruited by Woolcott through their own channels and an Expression of Interest form on YourVoiceOurCoast website.
- A council briefing on the plan prior to public exhibition is expected June 2021, with the IWRP adopted late 2021.

## IPART Engagement

- IPART have specific guidelines and expectations on customer engagement to inform the pricing submission including relevancy, representative, proportionate, objective and clearly communicate/accurate.
- A survey *Pricing for residential and business customers* will be conducted via telephone and online via YourVoiceOurCoast website in January 2021.
- A second survey *Willingness to pay* will be completed online via YourVoiceOurCoast website Early February 2021.
- September 2021 Pricing submission sent to IPART with IPART conducting community consultation as part of pricing review late 2021.

## **Item 7 Update on Water Restriction Considerations (Action 38)**

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Luke Drury (Section Manager Water Services and Design) provided the Advisory Group with an update on Water Restriction Considerations.

The July 2020 Council Resolution was to not transition to Water Wise Rules in consideration of:

- Unclear if climate drivers contributing to drought had shifted
- Limited impact of level 1 restrictions to community over winter
- Undesirable to change messaging while COVID-19 had been occupying airspace
- Alignment with approaches of HWC and SWC
- Reassess the situation at a meeting in November 2020

Mangrove Creek Dam storage has recovered from 50% to 62.2% since February 2020. Increased storage levels and favourable outlook indicate a very low risk of returning to level 1 restrictions before mid-2021. We have an obligation to provide 'restriction free' level of service for the majority of the time.

The current position that will be recommended to Council at the 23 November 2020 Council Meeting is:

- Level 1 Water Restrictions should be removed by the end of 2020
- Central Coast Community would transition to Water Wise Rules
- Council will continue to promote its key messaging introduced in 2019
  - o Love Water: Use it wisely
  - o Live to 150L

The approach was generally supported by the Advisory Group members with acknowledgement that this aligned with the long-term strategy.

## **Item 8 Drought Comparison – Millennium Drought and Recent Drought**

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Natalee Evans (Water Resource Planning Officer) provided the Advisory Group with an update on Central Coast Drought Analysis. The Department of Primary Industries have provided Council with drought analysis data from January 2000 to 10 August 2020.

The Advisory Group members supported ongoing monitoring of the available drought indicator maps to allow the comparison of conditions experienced on the Central Coast compared to the rest of NSW can occur during future drought events.

## **Item 9 NSW Water Planning Framework – Update from CEO's Forum**

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Jamie Loader (Director Water and Sewer) provided the Advisory Group with an update on the CEO's forum in particular the modelling under the IWRP and the duplication in requirements in relation to the IWCM. An initial meeting occurred with DPIE today to discuss further and work out a way forward.

A special CEO's meeting is also scheduled for either mid-December or mid-January (timing TBC), by which point we are looking for a final outcome on the methodology so we can progress with the rest of the program.

## **Item 9 General Business and Close**

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**Action:** The following items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Status update on Integrated Water Resource Plan
- Discussion on enduring supply considerations

The meeting closed at 5.24pm

**Next Meeting:** Early February 2021  
TBC