

# Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Record 11 February 2021



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	11 February 2021	
Time	Started at: 3.05pm	Closed at: 4.44pm
Chair	Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer / Luke Drury – Section Manager Water Services and Design	
File Ref	F2019/01200	

**Present:**

Ken Brookes, Daryl Mann, Pamela McCann

**Council Staff present:**

Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer (joined 3.11pm), Luke Drury – Section Manager Water Services and Design, Natalee Evans – Engineer Water Resource Planning, Satpal Singh – Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning, Charles Leuong – Project Manager Integrated Water Resource Plan, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

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

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Apologies received: John Asquith, Michael Redrup

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 19 November 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log, noting pending items are on agenda to be addressed today. Updates on Environmental Protection Licenses expected for next two meetings.

Noted that the Catchment Management Plan is progressing, however the document will not be available to bring back to Advisory Group until the August 2021 meeting.

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

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*Deferred to follow Item 7.*

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

- Current dam storage levels:
  - o Mangrove Creek Dam – 63.50%
  - o Mooney Mooney Dam – 99.19%
  - o Mardi Dam – 74.07%
  - o Central Coast total – 64.7%
  - o Hunter Water total – 93.50%
- Rainfall statistics: levels continue to be good.
- River extractions to Mardi Dam and Mangrove Dam continue.
- Status of important assets: majority in good condition, with minor works required.
- Hunter Water storage and transfers: bulk transfers continuing in line with transfer agreement.
- Water restrictions: Central Coast currently on Water Wise Rules as of 7 December 2020.
- Water demands
- Rainfall outlook March 2021: 55-65% chance of exceeding median level
- Max temperature outlook March 2021: 70-75% chance exceeding median level
- Min Temperature outlook March 2021: 80% chance of exceeding median level
- El Nino / La Nina Outlook: likely to have peaked but impacts expected to continue into Autumn
- Forecast for Ourimbah Creek Streamflow (February 2021 to April 2021)
- DPI Combined Drought Indicator NSW and Central Coast February 2021

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

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*Brought forward to follow Item 3.*

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 98% of construction activities completed. All pipework installed, backfilled and pressure tested. Scheduled completion date remains mid-2021. Project is ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Mardi Water Treatment Plant Upgrade: Construction phase business case approved. EOI shortlist now being reviewed for approval. Tenders for design and construction contract planned May 2021.
- Mangrove Creek Spillway rectification: Detailed risk-based assessments still being finalised in accordance with new regulations. 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: Detail design and pre-construction phase documents being prepared. Construction scheduled for completion end 2023.
- Leak Detection Program remains ongoing: 401 leaks detected (majority on Council network) across 965km surveyed. Problem areas being rescanned to detect lower noise leaks. Initial scan of entire network expected to be complete mid 2022.

- Drought Response desal readiness: Contract briefs for intake site selection going to market February 2021. Community engagement for development consent has also commenced on Your Voice Our Coast.
- Recycled water review and refurb: Water Resilience Committee agreed to commence detailed water quality monitoring. Upfront maintenance and three-month sampling planned.

## **Item 6 Status Update on Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP)**

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Charles Leung (Project Manager Integrated Water Resource Plan) provided the Advisory Group with an update on the IWRP including the following:

- Provided recap on background of project and the water supply system.
- Key part of project is to determine when major upgrades will be needed and start planning accordingly.
- Council continues to work with Hunter for regional approach.
- Works undertaken to date:
  - o Water demand forecast and peer review
  - o Catchment hydrology update
  - o Preparation of joint HWC/CCC Wathnet system model and peer review
  - o Options shortlisting and completion of majority of options development work
  - o Commenced community engagement
  - o Formalised change in yield methodology
  - o Portfolio modelling and shortlisting
  - o Procurement of cost benefit assessment model
- Current and activity activities:
  - o Ongoing refinement of options portfolios based on yield modelling and CBA work (iterative process)
  - o Preparation of option decision making tool incorporating CBA and broader decision-making considerations
  - o Options phase community engagement (YVOC)
  - o Enduring supply levels of service and infrastructure planning
  - o Discussion and documentation of key inputs with DPIE Steering Committee
- Shortlisted portfolios fall into five general themes:
  - o Climate independent supply
  - o Surface water/traditional sources
  - o Enhanced interregional transfers and traditional sources
  - o Enhanced interregional transfers and climate independent
  - o Traditional sources transitioning to climate independent
  - o Noted that drought management plans vary across each portfolio
- Provided brief overview of timeline for project, noting that works are on track.
- Concerns raised about community engagement for water and sewer projects, given community is currently focused on Council's financial situation and special rate variation process. Staff noted this is being considered and engagement is being adapted as required.

## **Item 7 Discussions on Enduring Supply Considerations**

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

- Council considering concept of enduring supply to ensure region is able to function with extensive periods of drought.
- Limited historical recorded data is available.
- Responsible planning requires consideration of risks to ensure region doesn't run out of water.
- Drought management plan needs to identify:
  - o How much water is required to provide in worse case scenario (similar to "Level 6" restrictions)
  - o How/where to provide it
  - o When to start a transition to greater climate independent supply
- To determine level of service required need to consider residential demand, non-residential customers (e.g. critical customers like hospitals and schools, and non-critical customers), minimum water and sewer operational network requirements, regulator expectations and funding models available, and experiences from recent drought events.
- Severe drought scenario not currently defined in WP2050/current DMP/2014 LHWP. Council developing demand scenarios in consultation with stakeholders, and considering what level of supply would apply in such cases. Modelling is being used to assess impact of options on network.
- Noted that strong community engagement would be needed to support enduring supply options. Members supported a minimum level of service during drought that maintains water and sewer network operation rather than centralised collection points.
- Supply options being considered:
  - o Minimum water supply harvestable from surface water sources (climate dependent)
  - o Non-climate dependent solutions (desal plan)
  - o Reinstatement of temporary weir at Porters Creek (including regulatory steps)
  - o Ground water schemes
  - o Administrative measures (e.g. suspension of WSP)
- Concerns raised about Porters Creek weir option – this would require extensive consideration of water quality given historic issues.
- Members support investigations being undertaken at same time as other works, given cross over and importance or ensuring future water supply.

## **Item 8 General Business and Close**

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Jamie Loader (Director Water and Sewer) provided an update on Council's current financial situation and response. Members raised concerns about loss of staff and impact on projects with regard to redundancies.

The meeting closed at 4.44pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 19 May 2021 (TBC)  
3pm – 5pm  
Location TBC