

Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Record 12 August 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	12 August 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.03pm	Closed at: 6.14pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2019/01200	

Present:

Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Chris Holstein (left 6.09pm), Councillor Jane Smith, Gary Murphy – Chief Executive Officer (left 5.54pm), John Asquith, Daryl Mann, Pamela McCann

Council Staff present:

Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer, Daniel Kemp – Unit Manager Planning and Delivery, Luke Drury – Section Manager Water Services and Design, Elizabeth Knight – Section Manager Treatment Plants and Catchments (joined 5.19pm), Greg Hickson - Operations Supervisor Dams and Treatment, Gregory Horvath – Water and Sewer Project Manager Major Construction, Charles Leung – Project Manager Integrated Water Cycle Management, Satpal Singh – Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Mayor Lisa Matthews, Ken Brookes, Michael Redrup

Councillor Jane Smith declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of interest.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 30 June 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

Item 4 Briefing on Drought Response Desalination Readiness Assessment (Action 6)

Gregory Horvath (Water and Sewer Project Manager, Major Construction) provided a presentation on the Drought Response Desalination Readiness Assessment including the original concept design, intake structure constructability assessment, ocean intake option, current approvals, project program and additional studies and investigations.

The Advisory Group discussed the need for a Communication engagement plan to map out the community consultation process.

Action: The Advisory Group indicated in-principle support for undertaking the additional studies and investigations however request additional clarification on costs per kilolitre, community engagement strategy and offsetting energy.

Item 5 Water Supply System Status Report – July 2020 (Standing Item)

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

- Dam storage levels
- Rainfall statistics/outlook
- Status of important assets
- River extractions
- Hunter water storage and transfers
- Hunter Water Central Coast Transfer triggers
- Water Restrictions
- Water Demands

Item 6 Update on Water Resilience Works (Standing Item)

Luke Drury (Section Manager Water Services and Design) provided the Advisory Group with an update of the water security works and drought management projects that are currently underway and the status of each project.

Action: In regard to Woy Woy Treatment Plant, staff to provide information on where groundwater is being extracted from in comparison to where urbanisation has occurred and what parameters are monitored to ensure safety of this water source.

Action: Staff to provide an indication of annual sludge production volumes relative to onsite storage at Mardi Water Treatment Plant.

Item 7 Environmental Protection Licence Non-Compliance Summary – follow up Opportunity (Action 31)

The Advisory Group discussed Council's recent Environment Protection Licence non-compliance notices and responses.

Action: Staff to provide ongoing annual summaries to the Advisory Group of any breaches of Environment Protection Licence's after the relevant annual returns are submitted as well as an update on any major incidents in the network should they occur.

Action: Staff to confirm the incident details for the sewer rising main failure which impacted Wamberal Lagoon.

Item 8 Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) Shortlisted Options – follow up opportunity

Luke Drury (Section Manager Water Services and Design) provided the Advisory Group with an update on the IWRP shortlisted options.

Council is required to prepare and submit for approval an Integrated Water Cycle Management plan (IWCM) to Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) before 30 June 2021 to comply with the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018. IWRP is the water resources component of IWCM, ensuring supply of secure, reliable, safe and affordable raw water upstream of water treatment plants. The IWRP will also plan to identify enduring water supply provisions and triggers to be implemented during prolonged drought periods.

There are 35 shortlisted options which will now be moving through to option development which includes understanding risks, yield modelling and community engagement later in the year, the results of which will be fed into the overall decision-making tool to further assess these options.

Feedback was received from some Advisory Group Members on the shortlisted options and responses have been prepared and will be circulated to the Advisory Group. Staff are happy to receive any additional feedback via email.

Staff noted concerns regarding whether Mine Water is even worth considering due to the high risk for contamination.

Action: Staff to provide written responses to the issues that were raised by various Advisory Group members via email prior to the meeting including concerns raised regarding water quality.

Item 9 General Business and Close

The Advisory Group discussed a Local Government NSW Forum presentation from DPIE CEO Jim Bentley on Strategic Planning for Water and Waste Water Services across NSW and would like to see further information on this.

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

- Revised Engagement Plan for IWRP and IPART submission.
- Reassessment of continuation of level 1 water restrictions (Council report 13 July Meeting to be attached to meeting minutes).
- Summary of NSW Water Planning Framework discussions at the upcoming CEOs forum.

The meeting closed at 6.14pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 October 2020
3pm – 5pm
Zoom Meeting (TBC)