

Minutes



Water Management Advisory Committee

Date: 15 December 2021

Time: 3.05pm – 4.20pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Jamie Loader, Director Water and Sewer

Coordinator: Luke Drury, Section Manager Assets and Planning

Attendance

Members:

John Asquith

Ken Brookes

Daryl Mann

Pam McCann

Mick Redrup

Status:

Apology

Present

Present (joined 3:15pm)

Present

Absent

Staff:

Jamie Loader, Director Water and Sewer

Luke Drury, Section Manager Assets and Planning

Satpal Singh, Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning

Kelly Drover, Meeting Support Officer

Present (joined 3:22pm)

Present

Present

Present

1 Introduction

3.05pm

The Coordinator welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received were noted.

The Coordinator called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received.

2 Previous business

3.06pm

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

Ken Brookes congratulated staff on how comprehensive the catchment management plan is (as discussed at the 22 September 2021 meeting). Two points to note were:

- correction that the original purpose of the lower Ourimbah weir was to provide fresh water for steam trains on the original railway alignment.
- inclusion of the bunning/boomerang tunnel as a key asset in the catchment

[Water Management Committee meeting held 22 September 2021](#)

[Extraordinary Water Management Committee meeting held 25 October 2021](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 6).

3 Water supply system status report (standing item) 3.09pm

Satpal Singh (Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning) provided the group with a Water Supply System Update presentation including the following key topics:

- Dam Storage Levels as at 14 December 2021
- Rainfall statistics
- River extractions
- Status of important assets
- Hunter Water storage and transfers
- Water demands
- Climate driver update
- Rainfall outlook January to March 2022
- Max temperature outlook January to March 2022
- Min temperature outlook January to March 2022
- Forecast for Ourimbah Creek streamflow December 2021 to February 2022
- Department of Primary Industry combined drought indicator NSW and Central Coast December 2021

4 Update on Central Coast Water Security Plan 3.29pm

Luke Drury (Section Manager Assets and Planning) provided the group with an update on the Central Coast Water Security Plan (CCWSP) which was reported to the 14 December 2021 Council meeting.

The CCWSP is a drinking water plan for our growing community. The CCWSP replaces WaterPlan 2050 as the region's water security plan and is a key element of Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan that is being developed under the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) IWCM regulatory framework.

Public exhibition commenced on 31 August 2021 for a period of 6 weeks via YourVoiceOurCoast website and included the plan, technical papers, fact sheets, video and FAQs as well as online Q&A sessions.

During the exhibition period there were over 1,300 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast project page and over 340 downloads of the plan. Staff maintained an online Q&A board and held three online sessions with interested groups. As a result, staff received 45 submissions through the online guided submission form and a further 10 submissions via email and post.

After being endorsed at last night's Council meeting, the next step is to submit the plan to DPIE for their formal review and in-principal approval in the first quarter of 2022. This will assist plan implementation from mid-2022 while the broader IWCM activities are undertaken.

5 Water resilience works projects (standing item)

3.39pm

Luke Drury (Section Manager Assets and Planning) provided the group with an update on Water resilience works projects.

- Mardi Water Treatment Plant
 - o Tender evaluation in final stages
 - o Early works ongoing for lagoon desludging
 - o New sludge drying beds constructed
 - o Aiming for contract award early 2022
 - o Scheduled completion early 2024
- Mooney Dam WPS
 - o Concept designs complete
 - o Detail design and construction phase business case on hold among other capital works priorities
- Leak Detection
 - o Sixth quarterly package of work completed. Rescanning of problem suburbs continuing in addition to new suburbs
 - o Leakage rates in reticulation network sufficient to retain focus on those assets over the trunk main assets
 - o Initial scan entire network expected by mid-2022
- Drought response desal readiness
 - o Studies to support consent amendment for intake structure type and flexibility in scale to ensure plant is 'plan ready' if required as drought response
 - o Final shortlisted sites for intake structure confirmed
 - o Subsequent detailed studies to support consent amendment deferred to 22/23
- Recycled Water Review and Refurb
 - o Water Resilience Committee agreed action to commence detailed water quality monitoring
 - o Upfront maintenance and three month water quality testing program commenced April 2021
 - o First phase results being reviewed ahead of quarterly sampling being undertaken in Sept/Dec/March
 - o CCWSP actions to guide next steps

The Mangrove Creek Dam Rectification has been taken off the list as the project is complete, along with the Mardi to Warnervale Pipeline, which is fully operational with the official opening event being held today.

6 Update on Water Business Review (Action 44) and IPART Pricing Review Update 3.50pm

Jamie Loader (Director Water and Sewer) provided the group with an update on the Water Business Review and IPART Pricing Review Update.

Water Business Review

Council engaged consultants KBR to undertake a review of the governance model for the Water and Sewer Business. The driver for this being the fact that Central Coast Council is the only Council in NSW that is regulated by IPART for pricing and there are a number of conflicts between the *Local Government Act* requirements, the *Water Management Act* requirements and the *IPART Act* with operational and strategic difficulties with the differing requirements.

KBR have considered several options including the following:

- Revisiting the Central Coast Water Corporation model that was previously created under the two former Councils.
- A variation of that which would be internal commercialisation.
- An option around selling assets which was not favoured but still needed to be investigated.
- Joint venture model where Council would work with another utility i.e. Hunter Water, with Council owning the assets and the other utility operating the assets.

The report has been completed by KBR and the CEO and Administrator have been briefed. All options are complex and would require legislative change and government intervention.

A number of meetings are currently taking place and further analysis including pros and cons and what the legislative pathway might be is required. A discussion paper is being prepared to go to the second February 2022 Council meeting. Council has also engaged further legal advice to assist.

IPART pricing review update

The submission went in September 2021 and the Public Hearing was held October 2021. Expenditure consultants undertook a review including interviewing staff. Council is now awaiting the consultants draft report which is expected the first week of February 2022. Staff will have until 21 February to respond to draft consultants report.

When the draft IPART Determination is released in March it will be based on the draft consultants report as they won't have time to consider our feedback for inclusion in the draft determination. Once the draft determination is released, Council will have a month to respond with the final determination being released in May.

Council has received positive feedback so far on the submission.

7 General business

4.12pm

Jamie Loader acknowledged Luke Drury and his team for their outstanding efforts on the Water Security Plan and it was a positive to see it being endorsed by Council at last night's meeting.

The Committee discussed meeting location moving forward due to the sale of the Gosford Administration Building and the option of meeting face-to-face in Wyong, continuing to meet remotely or a hybrid option. The next meeting in March to be held in the Nexus Boardroom at Wyong.

9 Close

Next meeting: March 2022
 Nexus Boardroom, Wyong

Meeting closed at 4.20pm

Minutes finalised and endorsed 22 December 2021.

Jamie Loader, Director Water and Sewer

Luke Drury, Section Manager Assets and Planning
Coordinator

Action Log

Water Management Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
24	27/5/20	Staff to provide a table as a Standing Agenda Item, as presented in the Briefing Note on Water Resilience Works that lists each project and provides a brief status at each Water Management Committee Meeting.	Water and Sewer staff	Update provided at 15 December 2021 meeting	Ongoing
35	12/8/20	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.	Water and Sewer staff	30/11 the next annual returns are due in February 2022; a report will be prepared for the WMAC meeting following the submission of these returns.	Ongoing
44	22/9/21	Staff to discuss the matter of privatisation/amalgamation with Hunter Water and provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.	Water and Sewer Staff	Update provided at 15 December 2021 meeting	Complete
45	22/9/21	A summary of the new assessment methodology for Mangrove Spillway to be circulated to Committee Members.	Section Manager Assets and Planning	Briefing note circulated with agenda for 15 December 2021 meeting.	Complete