

Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group - Minutes of Meeting



Location: Video Conference

Date: 30 March 2022

Time: 9.00am

Present: Tanya Thompson (Chair), Jenny McLeod, James Maguire, Bede Spannagle, Nick Maynard, Glenn Lok, Justin Sutherland, Trevor Clark (observer), Luca Ferla (observer), Jackie Kruger (observer), Claire Miller (observer), Jonathan Dickson, Dan Berry, Shaun Gleeson, Daniel Bailey, Shaun Mills, Jack Finch, Andrew Fraser, Kita Ashe, Enrico Proietti, Sonia Townsend, Emma Oates and Toni Hayes.

The following attended for specific agenda items: Brian Mayhew, David Swift-Hoadley, Alastair McKenzie-McHarg, Suzy Lykos, Kaia Hodge, Irene Zinger, Ryan Lynn, Greg Abood, Stef Schulte, Peter Hyde, Andrew Richardson, Deep Singh.

Meeting Opened: 9.00am.

1. Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country:

1.1 Welcome and introductions:

1.2 Apologies: Hilary Johnson, Iva Quarisa, Peter Sheppard.

1.3 Confirmation of Agenda Items:

1.4 Declaration of Interest(s):

- Declarations of interest were sought from attendees in relation to the meeting's agenda items. No interests were declared. Items included in the agenda are not considered confidential unless declared as such.
- J McLeod declared she is a member of the Water Market Advisory Panel.

1.5 Minutes of Previous Meeting, 26 October 2021:

- Resolved the minutes of meeting held on [26 October 2021](#) be confirmed as a correct record. Taken as read.

*J McLeod/B Spannagle
carried*

1.6 Actions arising from minutes

- See action sheet attached.

2. Presentations/Consultation:

2.1 WAVE Pilot update (J Dickson)

- WaterNSW continues to renew core systems to improve and streamline the way customers transact. A pilot for our new customer portal will launch soon to test functionality with new customers, prior to being extended to existing customers.
- The customer portal will provide customers with choices on how they transact with WaterNSW. New functionality will enable customers to access our services at anytime from anywhere, with the opportunity to manage water needs in one place. The portal will be progressively launched throughout 2022, with the first stage being rolled out in March allowing customers to submit new basic landholder rights (BLR) bore applications via the portal.
- Additional functionality being introduced over the next 12 months includes WAL applications, ordering and trading water, viewing water account balances, meter reads, other licensing application types and paying your WaterNSW bills.

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- WaterNSW advised the aim is to have one common portal across Licencing, Approvals and Water Ordering, Trading and Metering processes. Phase 2 of WAVE will gradually replace iWAS.
- The first iteration will include BLR applications, amendment approvals, flood works, water supply works and extensions and dewatering in the first 3-6 months. Existing customers will migrate to the new system in 6-12 months with the inclusion of online registrations, WAL applications, dealings, guided product selection and objection handling.
- Please visit WaterNSW's [Customer Portal](#) page for more information.

2.2 Regulatory Economics update (J Dickson)

Customer Conversations:

- Feedback from the Kitchen Table Kit provided insights that will inform future engagement on the 2025 Pricing Determination, with key themes of pricing (including water availability, postage stamp pricing, tariff structure, water accounting), regulatory complexity and licensing (minimum invoice amounts, fees for sleeper licences).
- Our future customer engagement is intended to align with the IPART Engagement Framework and themes received will be used in the next phase. Starting engagement earlier than in the past remains a focus of WaterNSW and over the next 3-6 months we will be considering our engagement plans. We will update our customers and CAG members as this progresses.
- Members requested an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss costs and views specific to the Murrumbidgee valley. Discussion on how we can work smarter and more efficiently is of importance to irrigators.

Action MBG2203.01: One-hour discussion of valley-specific pricing methods to be included in agenda for the next meeting.

Responsibility: J Dickson

Increasing Transparency:

- Based on customer feedback, WaterNSW is improving the description and breakdown of charges on your bill. Pass-through charges collected by WaterNSW on behalf of MDBA and DBBRC are now listed separately as "other pass-through charges". This change does not impact the overall fees and charges levied against a water licence, only separated to improve transparency. All pass-through charges are determined by IPART.

ACCC Consultation:

- The nine MDB valleys and rural customers in the Fish River Water Supply (FRWS) scheme have been regulated by IPART under the Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010 (WCIR). The Coastal valleys and urban FRWS customers are regulated by IPART under the IPART Act.
- Following the ACCC review of the WCIR, the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources accepted the ACCC's advice to return the regulation of bulk water infrastructure charges back to the basin states, which resulted in several amendments to the WCIR in 2020.
- Following these changes, WaterNSW has notified the ACCC that it has been made aware of a matter that may result in WaterNSW ceasing to be subject to Commonwealth legislation. If approved, this would allow IPART to regulate all of WaterNSW's water services under the IPART Act. If not approved, regulation of the MDB valleys will revert to the ACCC for the 2025 Determination.
- Details of the review can be found on the [ACCC's website](#).

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3. Asset Maintenance:

3.1 Asset Maintenance update (B Mayhew)

- Asset performance and maintenance in the Murrumbidgee presented and discussed, including routine preventative and corrective maintenance delivery at Burrinjuck (including flood operations), Blowering, Beavers Creek Weir and fishway, Berembred Weir, Old Yanco Weir, Tombullen Storage, Tarabah Weir, Balranald Weir, North Redbank system and Lowbidgee.
- WaterNSW completed 496 preventative maintenance work orders and 89 corrective maintenance works orders from December to February.
- Customers questioned if the fishway at Beavers Creek has been washed away as a result of the flooding. Not that WaterNSW is aware of. There is a lot of silt that needs clearing. We think the flows exaggerate the risk of erosion on embankments and increases sediment in the fishway. the team is putting together some observations for future use.
- Customers noted WHS issues were the priority at Balranald Weir. The process to install and remove the boards is not a great one and our first priority is to make it a safer and more efficient process. We also have other work to do to improve operation of the fishway and reduce flood damage that occurred around crane and supporting infrastructure.
- Customers questioned if the flood damage was due to heavy rain or from when the river is purposely run higher. WaterNSW advised the larger scale damage is occurring during rainfall and flood driven events. We occasionally see localised erosion at some of the smaller structures when there is an event that drives the structures a bit harder, but not structural damage.
- DPE-EHG commented that the scale of the reconnecting river country is miniscule compared to the amount of water which has gone down the river recently. The event proposed under reconnecting river country will have the current weir drowned out but will be smaller in terms of magnitude and duration will be less. With e-watering we endeavour to extend the dwell time rather than running the rivers high.

4. Water System Operations:

4.1 Operations update (S Gleeson)

- WaterNSW presented an update on dam storages and storage capacity, system inflows, climate outlook and forecast. Currently we are managing airspace, with Burrinjuck storage currently around 90%, releasing 5GL/day. Blowering storage is around 92%.
- A detailed operational update will be presented at the Murrumbidgee ROSCCo, to be held following the CAG meeting. Please visit the [ROSCCo page](#) on WaterNSW's website for more information. Additional operational information can be found on [WaterInsights](#).

5. Presentations/Consultation (cont):

5.1 IVT Options Paper update (J Dickson)

- In July 2021, WaterNSW sought CAG input to an issues paper before it was released on options for the Murrumbidgee IVT, seeking feedback on the current application and assessment approach for transparency, efficiency and equity of the current process. Input received from the Murray-Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee CAGs was incorporated into the paper.
- Twenty-one responses were received from various organisations and operators with key themes being equity of access, efficient processes and transparency and predictability.
- WaterNSW is continuing to review the concerns and issues raised and will provide an update via the website and IVT subscriber list in April with next steps. For more information, please visit the [IVT page](#) on WaterNSW's website.

- WaterNSW provided details on 6 linked tagged licences enabled in the Basin Plan that operate outside the IVT trade rules. Customers questioned if those licences hold water entitlements and how many other water entitlements they have. WaterNSW is not able to share this information without divulging individual customer information. The rules state that if the water is transferred it must be used (cannot be traded), however if they have additional licences they can trade from those and use the IVT water on farm in its place.

5.2 Grandfathered Licences (R Murray)

- DPE provided an update on the ACCC water market reform process and roadmap. The ACCC inquiry report was finalised in 2021 and an Advisory Group established and a Principal Adviser appointed. The [December Advice](#) is now publicly available. The final roadmap is due June 2022.
- New commitments include in-principle support to new water market reform measures to amend the Basin Plan to remove grandfathered tags exemption at the next available opportunity.
- Under current arrangements in some states, the owners of grandfathered tags may be able to order water for delivery from one zone to another, at times when trade restrictions prevent others from similarly moving their water between these same locations by allocation trade. This creates advantage for the grandfathered tag holder, who can access their water in the destination zone when others can't and influences inter-zone trade opportunities.
- The ACCC enquiry found the exemption in the Basin Plan water trading rules to be inequitable and there was broad scale support for its removal. Basin States have agreed with the ACCC recommendation that it should be repealed and support the removal of this exemption at the next available opportunity via an amendment to the Basin Plan.
- Customers questioned if the tagged licences are prevented from selling water after a transfer/trade. WaterNSW confirmed that any water on a tag licence traded in this manner must be used on farm. WaterNSW provided the following example: if a farm in Victoria bought a Murrumbidgee licence prior to 2010, tagging allows them to order water from Murrumbidgee (on a tagged Licence) in Victoria and use on-farm in Victoria without impact from the trade rules of the IVT. They can buy in temporary transfer in the Murrumbidgee and use it on-farm in Victoria but can't transfer it to a Victorian licence if traded in the Murrumbidgee. If in a case like this year, Victoria can continue to use Murrumbidgee water, it may release other Licenced water they may own for sale.
- DPE stated that issues around inequity were more around the restrictions in place in NSW that allowed the water to be moved to the destination zone for small number of market players when others were restricted by trade IVT rules.
- Customers stated it may delay the opening of the IVT in the Murrumbidgee and is a massive financial advantage to those with tagged licenses where a valley price differential might exist. Customers commented, another issue is when there is zero trade out of the valley because the IVT is closed, and an exempt linked tagged licence in the Murray is able to bring water into the Murrumbidgee it forces the IVT balance into negative delaying the opening of trade and impacting general security in the Murrumbidgee.
- Customers stated they assume that NSW/DPE has explored all other avenues to close the loophole without having to make changes to the Basin Plan. DPE explained that the issue is the WSP and NSW Water Act are silent on tagged trade issues. The exemption is within the Basin Plan and the provision is in the Basin Plan only. Issues of compensation claims would be in the Federal realm not State Legislation. There will be no inconsistency in the NSW legislation once the exemption clause is removed.

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- Customers commented the original intent was met when the law came into effect but the market has progressed significantly since and is now not working within the original intent.

5.3 Water Reform Implementation Plan (WRIP) update

Non-Urban Metering Reform update – WaterNSW (D Swift-Hoadley)

- WaterNSW provided an update on the non-urban metering reforms, including a recap on the roll out dates, metering requirements for surface, groundwater and at-risk groundwater sources and what water users need to do to get meter ready.
- Water users **are strongly encouraged to check the mandatory conditions** on work approvals as they supersede the requirements in the regulations. Use the online [Metering Guidance Tool](#) to see if and how the rules apply to you.
- Customers can choose to **make an authorised work inactive** to be exempt from the metering rules. Customers must complete the [application form](#) and pay an administration fee. Once inactive, customers will not be able to use their work to take any water, including basic landholder rights. To **make a work active again**, customers will need to submit a new application and provide evidence that the work adheres to the metering regulations, noting that works in 'at-risk' water sources may not be re-approved.
- **All works captured by the metering rules** will need to be fitted with a pattern-approved meter by the regional rollout date. It may be possible to keep an existing meter if it was installed before 1 April 2019. For more information, please refer to the DPE leaflet [Non-Urban Water Metering in NSW: what water users need to know](#).
- Irrigation Australia has a full list of [AS4747 pattern-approved meters](#) on its website as well as a [list of DQPs in NSW](#).
- If it is **past your rollout date** and you have not yet started the process, it is vital you begin immediately. If you have taken some action but are still not yet compliant, you must keep records of all communication with your DQP and equipment providers.
- All licensed water users in **at-risk groundwater sources** must meter all usage regardless of the size of your bore. There is a potential regulation change that would allow water users to make a work inactive (exempt from rules) but still take water for BLR. For more information, please refer to the [At-risk Groundwater Sources](#) fact sheet.
- Water users who connect to telemetry (mandatory and voluntary) will receive a **telemetry rebate** of \$975 which is credited against the telemetry fee that is applied to your bill over the next 4 years to help offset telemetry charges (the IPART annual telemetry charge is \$182-\$226 per year). This does not apply to water users with Government-owned meters.
- Recording and reporting requirements presented and discussed.
- WaterNSW will continue to manage the compliance and ongoing maintenance of government-owned meters, including ensuring compliance by the relevant rollout dates. There is an option to [transition meters to private ownership](#) if landholders wish to do so.
- WaterNSW is developing a process for customers to inform us if the work installed is smaller than what is specified on your work approval, without the cost of amending the approval (subject to regulatory approval). To see what is listed on your work approval, visit the [NSW Water Register](#).
- **Faulty metering equipment** must be reported within 24 hours by completing the [online s91i form](#).
- There are a number of metering resources available on WaterNSW's and DPE's websites to help customers identify their metering requirements to ensure they are meter ready. Please visit www.waternsw.com.au/metering and <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nsw-non-urban-water-metering>.

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Non-Urban Metering Reform update – DPE (S Lykos)

- There are currently 15 compliant meters available, 5 compatible telemetry devices and over 160 DQPs across NSW (refer <https://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/>).
- Irrigation Australia has a course for people in the industry to become a [Certified Meter Installer and Validator](#) so they can install and validate their own meters.
- There are five **exemptions** that may be applied to non-urban water metering – works solely used to take water under BLR; works that have been made inactive; works that cannot physically comply with the non-urban metering rules (233); works that are not nominated against an access licence; and small, low-risk works used solely to take water under a licensed S&D access licence. Customers should use the online [NSW Metering Guidance Tool](#) to see if exemptions apply to them.
- The Minister has granted a **temporary exemption (233)** from the non-urban metering rules for works that are required to connect to telemetry but cannot because they are in a site that does not receive IOT network coverage (note this is not the mobile network). For more information, please use the [Telemetry Coverage Tool](#) on DPE's website.
- DPE is developing a Metering and Measurement virtual marketplace tool which connects water users, meter installers and suppliers and includes non-urban and floodplain harvesting (functionality to go live in May).
- DPE is hosting non-urban metering roadshows in Albury, Deniliquin, Griffith, Broken Hill and Dareton during April/May as well as an online webinar for the southern basin on 5 May and the northern basin on 19 May.
- **Floodplain Harvesting** regulatory amendments were made in December 2021 however were subsequently disallowed on 24 February 2022. The disallowance means that implementation dates for floodplain harvesting remain uncertain. The department remains committed to the regulation of floodplain harvesting to legal limits set out in NSW water sharing plans and the Basin Plan. There are currently 11 compliant level sensors, 3 compliant LIDs and over 40 certified storage meter validators. For enquiries, please email floodplain.harvesting@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- Customers requested that future meetings only include metering updates rather than repeating information given at previous meetings.

5.4 NRAR Compliance update

Regulatory Priorities 2021-22 (I Zinger)

- A principal objective of NRAR is to ensure effective, efficient, transparent and accountable compliance and enforcement measures to support natural resources management legislation. NRAR's regulatory priorities are published to show how and where efforts are focussed to build and maintain public confidence in water management in NSW.
- NRAR will be running an irrigated agriculture campaign, focussing on a range of irrigated agriculture activities that may include certain crop types and irrigated agriculture that extract large volumes of water in the Hunter, Murray, Murrumbidgee and Far North Coast valleys.
- The unauthorised flood works program will focus on structures that stop water from getting where it needs to go on the floodplain, moving from the north to the south of NSW. The program will be primarily focussed on regulated floodplains with existing management plans. Visit NRAR's website to apply for a [flood works approval](#).
- Bore audits are scheduled to begin in April for the Lachlan, Lower Murrumbidgee and Namoi valleys and will include Hillston, Forbes, Hay, Coleambally, Tamworth, Gunnedah and Narrabri. Work approval holders in these areas have been contacted by mail with a reminder to check the

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conditions of their work approvals, ensure their bore is fitted with an accurate meter and monitor and record water take.

- Enduring and annual priorities presented and discussed, including unauthorised flood works program. There will be a state-wide focus on metering and overdrawn accounts and targeted focus on irrigated agriculture and extraction limits in at-risk water sources in some valleys.
- More information on [NRAR's Regulatory Priorities 2021-22](#) can be found on NRAR's website.

Metering Compliance (R Lynn)

- NRAR presented statistics on tranche 1 (Dec 2020) compliance rates and its compliance approach for tranche 2 (Dec 2021) and tranche 3 (Dec 2022) for affected works under the non-urban water metering framework, including state-wide and Murrumbidgee comparisons. Compliance is reported on active works that are in scope, within the metering threshold for the tranche.
- Tranche 1 compliance in the Murrumbidgee has increased to 83% (69% state-wide)
- NRAR will visit high volume water users in tranche 2 in early 2022. Each case will be considered on its own merit. There is an expectation that all water users have at least entered into a formal arrangement with a meter installer before their deadline. Alternative pathways will be recognised.
- Tranche 3 compliance involves WaterNSW, DPE Water and NRAR working to ensure widespread awareness with the new rules. Communication channels including advertising, social media and hosting information events will be part of this.
- NRAR has developed an e-tool, [NRAR Assist](#), to help customers find answers to common compliance questions.

5.5 Controlled Allocation Order Update

- The Department of Planning and Environment (Water) has issued a new Controlled Allocation Order under section 65 of the WMA 2000, giving water users the opportunity to purchase water access licences across 55 different water sources in NSW. Registrations of interest are open from 18 March–18 April 2022.
- The opportunity to buy new shares in these water sources will be through a tender process, with a limited number of shares available in each water source. Shares are available in groundwater, regulated and unregulated water sources.
- For more information on [Controlled Allocations](#), or to register your interest, please visit DPE's website.

5.6 CAG Term of Office (S Townsend)

- WaterNSW made specific mention and thanks to all current members and alternates who have contributed to CAGs over the current term, noting the efforts and service of the Chair. We do appreciate the time and effort made by many to attend and provide feedback on the services provided by WaterNSW.
- The current term of office for WaterNSW CAGs expires on 30 June 2022, with a new term commencing 1 July 2022. Letters have been sent to your nominating organisations inviting nominations for the 2022-25 term.
- If you are considering renominating as a member of the CAG, please contact your nominating organisation to complete your nomination. Nominations close on 14 April 2022.

5.7 Regional Water Strategies update (S Schulte)

- DPE is preparing 12 Regional Water Strategies (RWS) across NSW to identify current and future regional water security challenges with priorities and actions for town and communities, industry, Aboriginal people and the environment. Approach to developing Regional Water Strategies presented and discussed.
- DPE has heavily invested in ground-breaking climate science, which underpins the strategies. The NSW Government's NARCLiM (climate change) datasets include a range of different future climate scenarios. The most conservative result will be used in the modelling and may not eventuate. Information on what the new climate data is showing was presented, including changing rainfall patterns and changing temperatures.
- To understand the southern region's climate, DPE has been working on new integrated southern basin modelling in collaboration with the MDBA, Snowy Hydro, Victoria, South Australia, ACT and local councils. Results are not yet available however options are being explored on when and how the new climate information will be published.
- Approach to developing the draft Murrumbidgee RWS and feedback from targeted public consultation presented and discussed.
- Key challenges include significant population growth in areas surrounding the ACT and Wagga Wagga, channel capacity constraints, decline in water availability, water management framework does not cater well for the needs of Aboriginal people and environmental challenges.
- Public exhibition periods for the Murrumbidgee RWS are scheduled for Q2 2022 (to be advised).
- Customers queried what the worst-case scenario is (how many degrees warming by 2100?) and if other scenarios are equally as probable can they be included in the RWS for context. DPE has included information from NARCLiM snapshots, developed by the NSW Government, which includes all 12 climate models and the range of different outcomes that could occur. This will be presented as part of the first iteration of the RWS. Outputs will be based on the most conservative modelling. The documentation will include a range of disclaimers about the use of climate scenarios. DPE took the question regarding degrees on warming on notice.

Action MBG2203.02: DPE to provide information on worst-case NARCLiM scenario, specifically, how many degrees of warming by 2100.

Responsibility: S Schulte

- Customers questioned if industry has had the same opportunity as Councils for input into the development of the Murrumbidgee RWS. DPE advised in the lead up to the first public exhibition of the draft RWS, they focussed on engaging with LWUs and Joint Organisations and relied on feedback provided by different industry bodies and environmental bodies who made submissions to other processes where relevant. There will be 6 weeks of consultation and documents will include information on what has been understood from previous discussions in the valley.
- Customers stated that when speaking of business as usual, it needs to be clearly articulated what that is. DPE advised that the first set of drafts will include a whole range of future temperatures. DPE is still working through the hydrological modelling and once all the checks and balances have been done will make clear in the documentation that will accompany those results.
- Information on [Regional Water Strategies in NSW](#) can be found on DPE's website.

5.8 Murrumbidgee WSP update (P Hyde)

- DPE provided an update on the progress of the Murrumbidgee WSP and WRP. No issues have been found with any of the WSPs. The Border Rivers Alluvium plan has been submitted, with the Lachlan WRP about to be submitted. The remaining plans will be re-submitted over the next 3 months as agreed between Ministers Pitt and Pavey.
- Planned Environmental Water (PEW) is defined by NSW in the *Water Management Act 2000*. PEW has not been defined by Victoria and Queensland. This is one of the root causes of difference between NSW and the other states.
- Main change likely to be seen is that we've now been mandated through regulated WSPs that will look at drought of record (period used to determine how much water is put aside for town water and basic rights).
- The intent is to amend the inland WSPs before 30 June 2022 for Basin Plan outcomes. If remade, the plans won't have had a review by the NRC, so DPE has decided to amend now which gives the NRC the opportunity to review plans in 25/26. The NRC is undertaking an audit of inland regulated WSPs, with the Murrumbidgee commencing soon.
- Customers questioned if DPE is sure there is no difference between the interpretation of PEW in the WSPs submitted so far and how the MDBA wants NSW to interpret PEW. DPE advised that at a departmental level they have had agreement on PEW with the MDBA.
- Customers sought an explanation on the rules around PEW in the Yanco so they can put together baseline flows. DPE advised that currently the PEW rule in Yanco is end of system flow at Darlot. There may be rules in WaterNSW's Operating Licence however the WSP states we must maintain 50ML/day at Darlot.
- Customers questioned if there is any intention to change the drought of record when amending the WSP in June 2022. No, it is a 5-year program. This will be reviewed in 2026 to align with other climate change work under the RWS.
- In terms of WSP to be submitted this year, there are only minor changes proposed so there won't be any consultation. Customers commented this is an unsatisfactory position for water users to be in. DPE noted the WSP remains the only legal instrument for water sharing in NSW. The only change as an outcome of the Basin Plan is the SDL compliance mechanism and PPM. NSW is effectively implementing the Basin Plan.
- On PEW, customers stated the crux of the issue is the meaning of PEW vs PEW rules. The MDBA has taken PEW rules into new arrangements and have mandated some PEW rules – enough environmental water set aside before HS/GS allocation is given. Discussion followed on the challenges experienced in discussions with MDBA and NSW having differing meanings for PEW. Changing the period of use can also diminish effectiveness (not volume) which is part of the ongoing discussion.
- Customers commented that operational water is not part of LTAAEL and is a big volume of water, noting that LTAAEL rules are not written down and the intent therefore means nothing. It shouldn't be left up to the interpretation. Customers requested that a working group be formed to discuss the issue further outside of the CAG.

Action MBG2203.03: DPE to consider how to progress discussion on the WSP with the Murrumbidgee CAG by subcommittee or separate forum.

Responsibility: P Hyde

5.9 Cold Water Pollution update (A Richardson)

- WaterNSW is required to address cold water pollution (CWP) under some work approvals subject to funding being provided. WaterNSW high priority CWP sites that require mitigation options funding are Copeton, Keepit, Wyangala and Blowering dams.
- WaterNSW sought funding for a CWP mitigation options study for works to improve temperature monitoring in its rural pricing submission to IPART. Funding was approved for 3 high priority sites (Copeton, Blowering and Keepit) and 3 temperature monitoring sites (Toonumbar, Lostock and Carcoar).
- The CWP mitigation options studies on the three dams will commence March 2022 through to June 2023 with expected outcomes being a robust assessment process, identification of the best CWP solution with the greatest environmental benefit at least whole-life cost and a benchmark to apply to lower priority dams. The CWP temperature monitoring works will occur in FY22-FY24.

6. Business Papers:

- Noted and taken as read.

7. General Business:

7.1 Water Allocation and Outlook update (D Singh)

- DPE provided a presentation on water allocations and outlook in the Murrumbidgee, including NSW allocation framework, 2021-22 resource distribution, water balance, indicative allocations for 2022-23, forecast general security allocations, IVT principles, climate drivers, reserves, storage vs commitments,
- NSW Allocations Framework presented and discussed.
- The decision to spill IVT was done this water year. Decision to do that depends on allocations between the Murray and Murrumbidgee. The Murray reached 100% in October but the Murrumbidgee didn't, so the decision was made to spill the IVT in November. As we go into a new water year, a decision will be made, with at least 10-days' notice given of an IVT spill.
- Customers questioned if minimum inflow applies to Snowy RAR in years like last year. DPE advised when Snowy is releasing water we will make an assessment on how much we think we can capture and how much will be spilt. Snowy also plays into dry periods as well when they can't provide full RAR.
- Information on [allocations and availability](#) can be found on DPE's website.

7.2 Tombullen Management

- On ROSCCo agenda for discussion.

Meeting Review and Close

Next Meeting: date to be confirmed (July 2022)

Meeting closed: 1.30pm

Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group – Actions – 30 March 2022**Carried forward actions**

Action No.	Action	Responsibility	Status
	Nil carried forward actions.		

New actions

Action No.	Action	Responsibility	Status
MBG2203.01	One-hour discussion of valley-specific pricing methods to be included in agenda for the next meeting.	J Dickson	
MBG2203.02	DPE to provide information on worst-case NARCLiM scenario, specifically, how many degrees of warming by 2100.	S Schulte	
MBG2203.03	DPE to consider how to progress discussion on the WSP with the Murrumbidgee CAG by subcommittee or separate forum.	P Hyde	

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