
Apologies: Cathy Redding, Colin Gatgens, Daryl Albertson, Heleena Bamford, Lindsay White, Mike Carbery, Tony Townsend, Jono Phelps

Meeting opened: 1.30pm

1. Confirmation of previous meeting notes
   - Action item 1.7.2 was not considered to be resolved

2. Review of actions from the last meeting
   - 1.7.2 Ongoing. The following items are to remain as agenda items for subsequent ROSCCo meetings:
     - continuous accounting and water delivery rights
     - resource assessment transparency and change processes
   - 1.8.1 Complete. Restrictions on trade have now been relaxed.
   - 1.8.2 Ongoing. Actual losses vs budgeted losses is completed on a monthly basis, however WNSW will consider how to present the information in a clearer manner.
   - 1.8.3 Close Action. Refer to 1.7.2 above. Increase transparency around change process and the assumptions in the Resource Assessment.
   - 1.8.4 Close Action. Refer to 1.7.2 above.

3. State-wide Drought Update
   Adrian Langdon (WaterNSW) provided a general overview including an update presentation of the drought. Some key points included:
   - Most central and northern valleys are currently in Drought Stage 3 or 4, as per the Extreme Events Policy. The Lower and Upper Namoi are in Stage 4.
• The Murrumbidgee is in Stage 1 (normal operations) and Murray is in Stage 2 of Drought. The Murrumbidgee region being the only region that has available general security.

• The forecast provided by the Bureau of Meteorology shows that the November to January rainfall is likely to be well below average. The December through to February rainfall forecast however appears to be slightly more positive.

• With the high temperatures and the very low soil moisture content, the forecast is for the drought to continue well into next year. Above average rainfall is required for a period of around 6 months to make any difference.

4. Namoi Update

Ken Gee gave a presentation to the meeting on the Namoi which included:
• Current Storage Levels and predictions under various scenarios
• Critical water needs in 2019-20
• S & D Replenishment flows
• Treatment of tributary inflows
• Potential infrastructure options or other actions for managing the drought
• Groundwater issues and water quality issues
• Mapping and identification of critical water supply needs

5. General Discussions

• A review of the Bulk Water Transfer including delivery losses and the deliverability of carryover was requested.
• Other items mentioned for discussion and review included; minimum levels in Dams, priority of carryover, availability of carryover and water allocations when carryover water exists.
• It was agreed that further conversations and reviews needed to occur but that these reviews would not occur whilst the valley is still in drought.

Water Sharing Plan Trade
• Some proposed Water Sharing Plan trade rules need to be reviewed. This includes permanent trade from the Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi and temporary trade into the Gunidgera-Pian system. Action: WNSW to provide information on permanent trades from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi and to review proposed rules.
Temporary Water Restrictions

- Temporary Water Restrictions (section 324 Orders) are assessed and applied on an event basis. WNSW has been progressing the documentation of a draft framework to assist with outlining and increasing the transparency of, the decision process. **Action:** WNSW will seek further feedback from the ROSCCo when the draft has been compiled.
- Further discussions and considerations (for the potential protection of flows) included:
  - the public interest test
  - what are the critical needs and therefore what are the desired outcomes?
  - Principles
  - Want to look further at decision process and particularly how it will apply to the Namoi

Other discussion topics / final comments.

- There are very few remaining fish refuge holes in the Lower Namoi.
- The bathymetric survey of Split Rock Dam will be conducted this year however the results may not be available until next year.
- It may be necessary to seek amendments to legislation regarding water delivery rights.

**Next meeting:** 19 March 2020 at 2.00pm at the WaterNSW Narrabri office

**Meeting Closed at 3.40pm**

The presentation will be uploaded on the internet or can be located [here](#).
### New actions

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.11.19</td>
<td>WNSW to provide information on permanent trades from Lower Namoi to Upper Namoi and to review proposed trade rules.</td>
<td>Andrew Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.11.19</td>
<td>WNSW will seek further feedback from the ROSCCo regarding 324 decision framework.</td>
<td>Andrew Scott</td>
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### Continuing actions

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<tr>
<td>1.7.2</td>
<td>• continuous accounting and water delivery rights&lt;br&gt;• resource assessment transparency and change processes</td>
<td>Next meeting agenda item</td>
<td>For continued discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.8.2</td>
<td>WNSW will consider how to present actual losses vs budgeted losses in a clearer manner.</td>
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