

Location: Quest Griffith,
53 Railway Street, Griffith

Date: 1 August 2019

Time: 1.30pm

Present: Mark Brettschneider, Peter Sheppard, Jennifer McLeod, Tanya Thompson, Ian Lugsdin, Steven Cunial, Lindsay Golsby-Smith, Brendan Barry, Paul Maytom, James Maguire, Hilton Taylor, Dave Straccione, Blake Edwards, Bede Spannagle, **Skype** Tracey Barton, Barry Graham

Apologies: Mark Wettenhall, Nick Maynard, Scott Hogan, Chris Morshead,

Meeting opened: 1.30pm

Dan Berry greeted the meeting and gave an outline of the meeting purpose.

1. Terms of reference of ROSCCo's

1.1. The Terms of Reference document was distributed and discussed/presented to the meeting attendees.

It was suggested that members review the Terms of Reference document and provide any feedback to Tracey. The current focus is on the drought and could include other river operations issues such as flood at a later stage.

Action: Members to review the Terms of Reference document and make suggested changes.

2. Drought Status and Operations in 2019-20

Dan Berry and Vince Kelly (WaterNSW) gave a presentation to the meeting on the Drought Status & Operations in 2019-20:

2.1 Current Storage Levels and predictions under various scenarios

2.2 Critical water needs in 2019-20

2.3 S & D Replenishment flows

2.4 Treatment of tributary inflows

2.5 Potential infrastructure options or other actions for managing the drought

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2.6 Groundwater issues and water quality issues

2.7 Other

3. Discussion by Stakeholders & Recommendations

- The meeting questioned the difference between the CAG's and the ROSCCO's. WaterNSW advised the ROSCCO's are meant to drill deeper into operational issues rather than an NSW presentation.
- Members were interested in a better understanding of the Snowy Mountains operations and licence regarding the impacts on our operations.
- A member of the group was interested in drought operations, other members interested in the Resource Assessments.
- Query as to why metering is not included in the terms of reference, some thought it should be.
- Blowering Dam Storage – does it take into account Eucumbene Dam – is this a risk in the Resource Assessment – how much of annual water will be delivered in the April. Discussing the specific operations of Snowy Hydro is sensitive, as information provide could influence the electricity market.
- Water Sharing plans – for allocation of the general security announcements, WaterNSW is using pre millennium drought inflow numbers. Scenarios of repeat of millennium drought inflows are worked through.
- Question if WaterNSW are communicating clearly within the rules of the Water Sharing Plan – should the rules be reviewed.
- A lot of discussion around the Drought Management Plan
- Consequences of likely low river levels and pool levels
- Support for tight operations to increase water security and improve water quality, i.e. low pool levels (for airspace storage and less stratification) and risk of shortfalls.
- The members supported the early notifications so that no surprises later on in the summer.
- Suggestion as to whether Balranald Weir can be lowered by one row of panels for water quality.
- Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators offered to survey a few members downstream of Gogeldrie for this season's likely demand.

Action : Brendan Barry to provide WaterNSW with results of survey

- Groundwater was discussed and a briefing was requested at the next meeting.

Action : Briefing to be provided by DPIE

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- Members requested the risks from low inflows this winter/spring identified and communicated with regard to
 - Risk to low allocations this year
 - Drought measures in 20/21 if extremely low inflows continue
 - Will carryover be deliverable next year?
 - Will all streams run next year, etc?
 - When will we start to know these risks are materialising
 - i.e. What is the drought plan for 2020/21? Under various inflow scenarios?
 - and communicate this to the market
- When do things become critical and what water has to go where – Balranald – how much water is needed to keep the river running, inflow sequences required.

Action : WaterNSW to provide inflow sequences

- Balranald has a few issues and WaterNSW has made the decision not operate the weir due to safety issues. Plans are in place to remediate the structure as a priority. Could be a good year to trial a lower level of service at the weir in relation to management of algal bloom risk. The town is doubling, mines evolving, windfarms appearing, may be a good time to trial.

Meeting Review and Close

Next meeting: 1.30pm on 28 November at Quest Griffith

Meeting Closed at 4.30pm

Presentation will be uploaded on the internet or can be located here [Murrumbidgee ROSSCo Presentation 1 August 2019](#)

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New actions

Action number	Action	Resp.	Status
1.7.1	Members to review the Terms of Reference document and make suggested changes.	All	
1.7.2	Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators offered to survey a few members downstream of Gogeldrie for this season's likely demand. Brendan Barry to provide WaterNSW with results of survey	Brendan Barry	
1.7.3	Groundwater was discussed and a briefing was requested at the next meeting.	Vince Kelly	
1.7.4	When do things become critical and what water has to go where – Balranald – how much water is needed to keep the river running, inflow sequences required	Vince Kelly	

Carried forward actions

Action number	Action	Resp.	Status

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