

WSC MEETING SUMMARY



COMMITTEE NAME	Loddon Campaspe Regional WSC
MEETING DATE	6 October 2016 – Kangaroo Flat Sports Club
ATTENDEES	<p>WSC: Norm Suckling (Chair), Andrew Maher (Deputy Chair), Karl Hooke, Tom Walsh, Tim Harrington, Ross McKinstry, Hilary Jankelson, Garry Addlem, Richard Carter</p> <p>Guests: Denis Flett (VEWH), Emma Coates (VEWH), Louissa Rodgers (NCCMA), Margot Henty (GMW Board)</p> <p>GMW: Dale McGraw (Customer Service Manager Diversions – West), Peter Watson (Customer Service Coordinator Diversions – West), Mark Bailey (Manager Water Resources), Brendan Cossens (Groundwater & Streams)</p>
APOLOGIES	Nil

Main Topics Discussed

WSC Workshop Action Plan

- Presented to the committee the summary of the WSC Workshop which included the key themes raised by members.
- The Loddon Campaspe Regional WSC members agreed that the summary captured the key topics raised.

Diversions Strategic Plan

- Provided an overview of the key areas discussed at the Diversions Strategic Plan session ahead of the WSC workshop. A summary of the key themes was tabled and the members agreed that the summary captured the main issues that need to be incorporated into the strategic plan. It was requested that if there were any items or themes absent from the list, members could contact Dale to have them included.
- The committee agreed that GMW should put together a scoping paper that further informs the directions of the project. Future discussions need to involve the committee and GMW staff. The proposed November workshop would allow further discussions to occur.
- There were mixed feelings around the period at which the strategic plan should cover (5, 10, 20 years).

Bulk Entitlements & Resources

- Presented information to members on the current Bulk Entitlements in the Loddon, Campaspe and Bullarook systems, as well as allocation processes and carryover rules.
- It was communicated that the development of the Bulk Entitlements occurred prior to the establishment of the Victorian Environmental Water Holders (VEWH) and their subsequent allocations.
- Members raised their concern at the impact minimum passing flow obligations have on the available resources.
- It was felt that the entitlements that VEWH currently hold offset the need to have such high minimum flow requirements.

Interaction with Board Member Margot Henty

- Margot introduced herself to members and provided a summary of her background.
- Members also introduced themselves and gave a brief background as to their farming enterprises.
- Members acknowledged the value in having a Board member attend WSC meeting and passed on their thanks.
- Discussion took place as to how members felt they and GMW interacted with the community.
- Several members endorsed the role of the Diversions Operations Team and the relationship/links with communities and customers. It was agreed that they offer a great source of information through their contacts and their availability.

Environmental Entitlement (VEWH)

- Victorian Environmental Water Holder provided an overview of the history of the VEWH, how environmental water is managed and its relationship to the NCCMA.
- Provided an insight into the watering plans for season 2016/17 and how the recent flood events have impacted these plans.
- Spoke to the processes that are undertaken when the VEWH sell water in one system to purchase water in another for targeted environmental benefits.

Groundwater Resource Update – Brendan Cossens

- Updated members on the performance of the aquifers in the Loddon and Campaspe Catchments.
- Key findings were the recovery levels in the Ascot, Blampied and Newlyn zones of the Loddon Highlands WSPA.
- The wet winter period will assist the recovery levels, but the full extent of the recharge will not be clear until the end of spring.

Chairman's Report

- Provided an overview of the various working groups and meeting he attended since the last WSC meeting.
- Loddon Campaspe Regional WSC members were asked individually by the Chair on whether they felt that the unbundling of groundwater and unregulated entitlements should occur. All agreed that they saw little value in unbundling these entitlements, but encouraged GMW to keep working towards improving trade opportunities through other mechanism's that did not involve full unbundling.