



MEETING	NRAR Board Meeting		
MEETING NO.	02	DATE	24 January 2018
LOCATION	Secretary's Boardroom, MLC Building	TIME	9.30 – 5.00pm
ATTENDEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member), Ross Carter (CRO), Kendy Burke (Executive Officer)		
APOLOGIES	n/a		
PREPARED BY	Kendy Burke (Executive Officer)		

Previous meeting

Action	Status
Seek legal advice on extent of natural resource management legislation	Completed. Legal advice received 30 January.
Board to review the draft Board Code of Conduct at its next meeting	Scheduled for this meeting. See Agenda Item 1.
Schedule discussion on delegations for a later meeting	To be scheduled
Organise briefing on water reform package	Completed. Presentation at 24 January meeting
Organise briefing on Water Resource Plans and licensing	Completed. Presentation at 24 January meeting
Organise briefing on floodplain harvesting work	Scheduled for presentation at February meeting
Provide briefing on progress of transfer of functions/budget and staff from WaterNSW	Ongoing. Update provided at 24 January meeting.
Create one page diagrammatic Board work program for publication	In progress
Standing item for agendas every quarter – policy update and risk register review	Scheduled. To be confirmed.
Organise meetings with stakeholders including the following: ICAC, Ombudsman, IPART, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Ethics Centre, environmental groups including Total Environment Centre and Australian Conservation Foundation, Wentworth Group of Scientists, Environmental Defenders Office, NSW and national irrigator associations	First meeting held 25 Jan. Meetings scheduled for 5, 6 and 27 February.

This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
Standing item		
	Declaration of conflicts of interest	n/a
	No declarations made	
Agenda item		

Item	Issue	Action
1.	<p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>The Board discussed the draft Code of Conduct circulated.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the Code of Conduct for publication subject to the completion of requested actions.</p>	<p>Seek legal advice on the definition of natural resource legislation to be referred to in the code of conduct.</p> <p>Seek legal advice on the Board's role on dam safety</p> <p>Confirm the current extent of the definition of 'natural resource management legislation'</p>
2.	<p>Water reforms</p> <p>Emma Solomon, Director Water Renewal Taskforce, provided a briefing on the NSW Government's water reform package</p>	<p>The Board noted three critical areas for the reforms as clarifying the evidentiary basis for successful prosecutions, metering and access and use of data and information.</p> <p>The Board noted the critical role of WaterNSW.</p> <p>The Board noted the importance of strategic relationships such as with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.</p> <p>Schedule a briefing on metering, including matters relating to the meeting of metering standards</p> <p>Map the roles and responsibilities for each agency involved in water reforms</p> <p>Request WaterNSW to provide an update on its current compliance activities, including ongoing investigations and prosecutions</p>
3.	<p>Water planning and implementation</p> <p>Christobel Ferguson, Group Director Water Planning & Policy briefed the Board on water planning</p> <p>Susan Pucci, Manager Regulatory Reform briefed the Board on the operational implementation of plans</p>	<p>The Board discussed the extent of public provision of water-related information.</p> <p>The Board noted the work being undertaken to reduce the complexity of the water sharing plans.</p> <p>Prepare a comparative review of public accessibility to information on property titles versus water management</p> <p>Schedule a demonstration of the pilot online tool</p>
4.	<p>Ethical framework</p> <p>Sonia Rudd, Manager Organisational</p>	<p>The Board noted the importance of the ethical framework and asked that it be kept informed as the framework was</p>

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	Development and Rose Samuels, A/Director Organisational Development briefed the Board on the development of the Department of Industry's ethical framework	further developed.
5.	<p>Communication and Engagement</p> <p>Steven Blaney, Executive Director Communication and Engagement, provided a briefing on water and NRAR-related communication and stakeholder engagement issues with the Board.</p>	<p>The Board noted the criticality of timely and proactive communication and engagement actions.</p> <p>The Board emphasised its independence and the importance of building its strategic relationships such as with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.</p> <p>The Board noted that it was the perception that non-compliance was occurring across the State and need to recognise that there were high levels of voluntary compliance.</p> <p>Prepare NRAR communication and engagement strategy and action plan</p>
6.	<p>NRAR regulatory policy</p> <p>Peter Boyd, Manager Regulatory Performance Improvement, presented the draft NRAR regulatory policy for discussion.</p>	<p>The Board noted the need for the policy to reflect its discussions on strong action on non-compliance, recognition that the majority of licence holders voluntarily comply and highlighting environmental needs for water.</p> <p>Amend draft NRAR regulatory policy to reflect Board discussions.</p> <p>Prepare the Regulatory Risk Framework for Board review which needs to include definition of 'serious harm'.</p>
7.	<p>Draft NRAR Establishment Plan</p> <p>The Board discussed the circulated draft NRAR Establishment Plan.</p>	<p>The interim Chief Regulatory Officer advised that further work was being done to develop the Plan. Board to consider revised Plan out of session.</p> <p>When finalised, publish the Establishment Plan on the NRAR website.</p>
8.	<p>Other matters</p>	<p>Schedule a meeting with Charlie Dowsett, A/Deputy Director General Water</p> <p>Seek information on the status of investigations and prosecutions to be prepared by WaterNSW</p>

Item	Issue	Action
		<p>Organise meetings with regional staff across NSW, visiting the major offices.</p> <p>Seek legal advice on the Board's work, health and safety responsibilities and reflect this in the Board's governance documents.</p>

Next meeting

Wednesday 14th February