



## NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.11	DATE	27 June 2018
LOCATION	Level 49 Secretary Board Room	TIME	2.00pm – 5.00pm
BOARD ATTENDEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member)		
NRAR ATTENDEES	Grant Barnes (Chief Regulatory Officer), Gregory Abood (Director Regional Water Regulation – East), Kirsty Ruddock (Director Regulatory Investigations & Compliance), Timothy Gilbert (Director Regulatory Capability & Coordination), Russell Johnston (Executive Officer), Kendy Burke (Principal Project Officer), Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer)		
OTHER ATTENDEES	Nil		
APOLOGIES	Nil		
PREPARED BY	Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer)		

### Previous meeting

New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Review Legal Model and report on potential external legal options for future prosecutions	Director Investigations & Compliance	27 June
Regular updates on inter-agency and intra-agency stakeholder engagements	Board Secretariat	ongoing
NRAR Structure/Budget update	Chief Regulatory Officer	27 June
Floodplain harvesting funding/challenges	Director Operations West	10 July
Briefing on the 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study developed by WaterNSW	Executive Officer	27 June

### This meeting

Agenda Item	Notes
Confirm Minutes Declaration of conflict of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes of 12 June 2018 were confirmed.</li><li>No declarations of conflicts of interest.</li><li>Board member Ilona Millar advised that her legal practice from time to time represents some organisations that have mining interests. It is further noted that there are no interests relating to the papers tabled.</li></ul>
Compliance Activity Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Board were provided with an update on the triage and allocation of historical compliance matters inherited by NRAR on 30 April.</li><li>Gregory Abood advised the Board of a Stop Work Order issued in relation to unauthorised water take whilst NRAR continues to investigate the matter.</li><li>The Board were updated on recent property inspections and current investigations.</li><li>The Board acknowledged the work of the Floodplain Harvesting team and requested further information on the next steps following the questionnaire issued to irrigators, information on the funding arrangements/timelines for the project and challenges being faced.</li></ul>
General Business Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The CRO provided an update on his regional visits in the past fortnight. These included Murwillumbah, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Newcastle, Parramatta and Wollongong - engaging with staff and visiting local compliance sites.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CRO will be representing NRAR at the Cotton Australia Conference in August.</li> </ul>
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kirsty Ruddock advised the Board of a recently held Water Law Workshop. NRAR staff, DOI Legal Branch, Crown Solicitors and Barristers all attended and presented on their respective functions. Feedback has been that the workshop was greatly appreciated to help build understanding of how each area can better contribute to successful compliance and enforcement of water in NSW.</li> <li>The Board noted that four NRAR Executives completed the PSC Executive Leadership Essentials course to strengthen their leadership capability as public service executives.</li> </ul>
NRAR Operational Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CRO presented on a regulatory framework and detailed operational structure for NRAR.</li> <li>The Board endorsed the structure and the NRAR Executive will consult with staff on functions and roles moving forward.</li> </ul>
Establishment Plan – Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board were thankful of the work that NRAR staff have undertaken in compiling the report and highlighting the early successes of NRAR.</li> <li>The Board approved publishing of the Progress Report.</li> </ul>
NRAR Operational Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board endorsed an operational plan presented by the CRO to assist in achieving key Establishment Plan objectives.</li> <li>The CRO and Board noted the need to focus on appropriate acknowledgement and recognition for NRAR staff.</li> </ul>
Legal Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board considered two matters for prosecution, and recommended to proceed to prosecution with both matters (confidential).</li> <li>Following new legal advice the Board approved a variation to its resolution of 30 May 2018 by determining to cease prosecution in relation to one matter (confidential).</li> <li>The Board noted a complaint received relating to alleged unlawful surface water take at a mine, and endorsed the commencement of an investigation.</li> </ul>
Other Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board requested information on Water Sharing Plans, and on the trading of temporary water.</li> <li>Board Chair noted that Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) is launching their Cultural Flows reports.</li> <li>The Board Chair wished to extend thanks and record appreciation for the work of Kendy Burke for her work in the establishment of NRAR, and fundamentally influencing the way things are done in the Regulator.</li> </ul>

<b>New/Continuing action items following meeting</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Update on Floodplain Harvesting; questionnaire, next steps, funding & challenges.	Director Operations West	July meeting
Prepare a de-identified case report on the Stop Work Order	Director Operations East	August meeting
Report on trading of temporary water	Executive Officer	July/August meeting
Report on Water Sharing Plans	Executive Officer	August/September
Invite NBAN to attend a future NRAR Board meeting	Board Secretariat	August/September

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 10 July