



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.21	DATE	12 June 2019
LOCATION	Sydney MLC – L48 Kingfisher	TIME	12.30pm – 4.30pm
BOARD INVITEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member)		
NRAR INVITEES	Grant Barnes (Chief Regulatory Officer), Russell Johnston (Executive Officer), Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer)		
OTHER INVITEES	Listed next to relevant agenda item		

Agenda Item	Notes
Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of 1 May were confirmed. No declarations of a conflict of interest.
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided an update for the Board:</p> <p>Proactive compliance on the North Coast NRAR received significant local press following proactive compliance operations in the horticulture industry on the North Coast. This included multiple newspaper articles, interviews, and media releases from NRAR, local member Gurjeet Singh MP and Berries Australia. Operations East met with several stakeholder groups and local residents providing information on the compliance operation.</p> <p>NRAR role in approving access for town water supplies Some recent press has referred to NRARs role in approval of local water utilities accessing town water supplies. The Board noted the important role NRAR has in discharging this obligation to meet critical human needs.</p> <p>Northern Fish Flows Along with proactive monitoring of an environmental flow, NRAR participated in cross-agency information sessions for the community on the importance of environmental water.</p> <p>Staff Engagement The annual People Matter Employee Survey is now open, closing 28 June. NRAR employees will be actively encouraged to complete the survey, which will provide an insight into staff morale and opportunities for NRAR to continue to improve to be an employer of choice</p>
DOI Water Update <i>Invitees: Rachel Connell (Executive Director Water), Emma Solomon (Group Director Water Renewal Taskforce)</i>	<p>Ms Connell provided an update on the work of DOI Water in relation to Floodplain Harvesting. There has been a delay in the release of the independent peer review to allow further engagement with stakeholders who made submissions.</p> <p>Ms Solomon advised of support materials being developed and promoted for the community on the new metering regulations.</p>
Information session – Water licensing for mines <i>Invitee: Tim Baker (Senior Water Regulation Officer)</i>	Mr Baker provided the Board with an overview of the water licensing requirements for mines, how mines may use and re-use their water and the relevant exemptions and the complexities of measuring incidental take as a result of mining activities.
Legislative reform priorities	Mr Cameron outlined to the Board regulatory reforms currently being sought by

<i>Invitees: Geoff Cameron (Manager Regulatory Practice), Sheree Jones (A/Director Capability & Coordination)</i>	NRAR to increase transparency, including the ability to publish outcomes of compliance matters other than prosecutions. A framework is being implemented for NRAR officers to be better able to raise areas of legislative reform that could support the agency to achieve objectives. The Board requested Mr Cameron keep them briefed on reform options identified.
Prosecutions <i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i>	One matter was considered in relation to a prosecution (confidential).
Strategic Risk Register <i>Invitee: Sheree Jones (A/Director Capability & Coordination)</i>	The Board were provided an updated risk register including assigned risk owners and control plans. The CRO advised the Board of current recruitment to a senior position with ownership of governance and risk matters within NRAR.
Reporting Frameworks <i>Invitee: Gregory Abood (Director Operations East), Alison Collaros (Manager Licensing & Approvals East)</i>	The Board were provided an overview of the current reporting capabilities of NRAR, and the information that will be provided on a monthly basis for Board meetings in 2019/20. The Board endorsed the list presented and the CRO affirmed that NRAR would work to develop reporting capability on any other areas deemed valuable to the Board.
Monitoring & Audit Strategy <i>Invitee: Gregory Abood (Director Operations East), Tara Schalk (Manager Compliance Monitoring & Audit West), Guy Ohandja (Manager Compliance Monitoring & Audit East)</i>	Ms Schalk & Mr Ohandja provided an overview of the proactive compliance strategy being developed within NRAR, including routine monitoring of meters and water take, monitoring of environmental flows and compliance campaigns to address issues. The Board were advised of a significant growth in the work volume of NRAR aligned with the rollout of the metering framework, with approximately 1200 meters now growing to over 22,000 by 2023. The Board instructed the CRO to report back on strategic options to address how NRAR can fully meet its monitoring obligations.
Legacy Case review <i>Invitee: Gregory Abood (Director Operations East), Mike Sharpin (Manager Investigations East), Stacey Winckel (Manager Investigations West)</i>	Mr Sharpin advised the Board of the active focus on reducing the inherited backlog of legacy cases. All matters have been investigated, with only matters with continuing compliance actions remaining open. Mr Sharpin and Ms Winckel spoke to the quality assurance framework put in place to ensure that a focus on volume did not impact the quality of investigative work, and learnings including improving focus on documenting actions in a timely and consistent manner.

New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Assure ourselves that reporting available on meter installation will adequately support triaging risk.	Director Innovation	August
WHS – Discussion with staff	Board Secretariat	Quarterly
Budget Allocation – proactive/reactive mix	Director Innovation	July <i>(Include in strategy session)</i>
Invite Jim Bentley to future NRAR Board meetings (regular)	Board Secretariat	July
Formal budget package, including revenues, expenses and reporting against key objectives	Board Secretariat	July/August <i>(as available)</i>
Investigate whether NRAR should be involved in DPEs work on mine rehabilitation planning & policy	Chief Regulatory Officer	As required
Provide Board advice on aquifer interference provisions in WMA	Director Capability & Coordination	July
Include financial and non-financial reporting metrics to the Board from July	Board Secretariat	monthly
Report back on strategic options to address how NRAR can fully	Chief Regulatory Officer	October

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meet its monitoring & audit obligations.		
Assure the Board the proposed review of triage methodology for new compliance cases is robust (intending independent review of methodology)	Chief Regulatory Officer (intending independent review of methodology)	When available
Invite Boston Consulting Group to July Board meeting to present findings.	Board Secretariat	July
Mining as a standing item on the agenda: build an understanding of the challenges NRAR faces & opportunities for regulatory reform.	Chief Regulatory Officer	Quarterly

Next meeting

Wednesday 10 July