



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.22	DATE	10 July 2019
LOCATION	Sydney MLC – L48 Kingfisher	TIME	10.30am – 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 12 June were confirmed. No declarations of a conflict of interest.
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided an update for the Board:</p> <p>Media NRAR issued media releases on its anniversary and proactive compliance work in the Hawkesbury, both which were picked up in print and radio media.</p> <p>Pathway to Compliance register To support water users in achieving compliance with new metering regulations NRAR is developing a register that will allow parties to self-report involuntary non-compliance, should there be issues with matters such as the availability of pattern-approved meters or Duly-Qualified Persons (DQPs), and note their plans for achieving compliance.</p> <p>Licencing activities Current regulations require a prescriptive process be followed by NRAR in the approval of water supply works. NRAR staff are providing assistance to the Department in drafting an amendment that would allow the Minister discretion to authorise water supply works during a drought.</p> <p>Progress Report NRAR is currently drafting a report to demonstrate our progress from establishment to capability build. The final report will be tabled for Board consideration in August. The progress report will serve to underline progress against the aims of the NRAR Establishment Plan and Matthews reports.</p>
CSIRO Horizon Scan Invitee: <i>Simon Toze (CSIRO)</i>	Mr Toze presented a CSIRO horizon scan reports on major uncertainties that have been identified as potentially important drivers/influencers that could impact on the ability of NRAR to carry out its responsibilities, including Climate change, social attitudes to water, agricultural practices and irrigation needs, emerging technologies and data management & analysis.
Water Markets report Invitee: <i>Kai Wakerman-Powell (Aither)</i>	Mr Wakerman-Powell provided a report on water markets, including trade volumes and price fluctuations across NSW. The Board received advice that short term cases of undersupply or over-demand create conditions that may incentivise non-compliance. The Board requested advice on the forward-contract nature of agricultural commodities to better understand the implications for compliance.
Strategy Session Invitee: <i>Kaia Hodge (Director Regulatory Innovation)</i>	Ms Hodge facilitated the Board in completing a PESTLE Analysis to identify and discuss opportunities and risks for NRAR. Following the discussion the Board directed the CRO to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in submissions to IPART and other sources for appropriate cost-recovery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue counter-cyclical planning for when the drought breaks prepare communications to demonstrate our remote-monitoring capability provide a briefing on admissibility of evidence captured by various emerging technologies, and whether legislative reform may be required
DOI Water Update <i>Invitee: Beth Overton (Director Governance & Strategy)</i>	Ms Overton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmed that the Department has received an extension from Minister Littleproud to 31 December 2019 for completing NSW Water Resource Plans. Provided an update on work to commence aquifer interference approval provisions of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.
Compliance & Flood-works strategy <i>Invitee: Tara Schalk (Manager Compliance Monitoring & Audit West)</i>	Ms Schalk presented a draft strategy to address existing unlicensed flood-works. The strategy proposed both proactive and reactive works, with the proactive works commencing with a pilot program in nominated floodplain managements plan areas. The Board requested refinement of the strategy, including the proposed methodology for bringing people into compliance, and early communication with relevant stakeholders of the compliance approach.
Prosecutions <i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i>	One matter was considered in relation to a prosecution (confidential).
Technology discussion – Rubicon Water <i>Invitee: Tony Oakes (Executive Director, Rubicon Water)</i>	Mr Oakes provided an overview of Rubicon Water and technology solutions they offer to improve water efficiencies at all stages of the water transmission cycle. He discussed with the Board opportunities that Rubicon Water foresees to improve water efficiencies using technology, and to improve measurement capability both in-stream and on-farm.

New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Invite Jim Bentley to meet the Board	Board Secretariat	Meeting with Chair out of session
Formal budget package, including revenues, expenses and reporting against key objectives	Board Secretariat	Out of session / August (as available)
Investigate whether NRAR should be involved in DPEs work on mine rehabilitation planning & policy	Chief Regulatory Officer	As required
Report back on strategic options to address how NRAR can fully meet its monitoring & audit obligations.	Chief Regulatory Officer	October
Independent review of proposed case triage methodology	Chief Regulatory Officer	When available
Brief Bruce Brown on NRAR finances outside of Board meeting schedule	Chief Regulatory Officer / Board Secretariat	monthly
Request meeting with MDBA to discuss current compliance priorities and work plan	Board Secretariat	September
Advice on the forward-contract nature of agricultural commodities to better understand the implications for compliance.	Chief Regulatory Officer	October
Briefing on the use of emerging technologies in investigations	Director Innovation	September

Next meeting

Tuesday 13 August (Coleambally)