

Meeting Summary

Meeting	Interagency Working Group (IWG) - Environmental Water		
Meeting No.	19	Date	29 July 2019
Location	Cliftons Meeting Room 11.04/11.05, 60 Margaret Street, Sydney, NSW	Time	9:30am – 1:30pm
Attendees	DPIE Water, Water NSW, DPIE EES, MDBA, CEWO, DPI Fisheries, DPI Agriculture, NRC, DPIE Water Renewal Taskforce		
Apologies	NRAR		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome and Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted that some sessions in today's meeting are combined with the Water Resource Plan Working Group (WRP WG) for efficiency as information needed to be presented to both groups and there are some common members between the groups.
Minutes and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting #18 were endorsed with some clarification incorporated. Feedback on IWG Meeting #18 Summary by COB Wednesday 31 July was requested otherwise endorsement is assumed for publication. The group provided updates on the Rolling Action List.
Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair updated the group on the recent launch of the Environmental Water Online Hub (e-hub). CEWO updated the group on work with Queensland to manage environmental water events in the Balonne catchment. NRC advised that the draft report on the review of the Barwon-Darling water sharing plan has been released. Submissions close 19 August with the final report scheduled to be published 30 August 2019. DPIE Water advised that Water Resource Plan Working Group will consider the Draft Barwon-Darling Watercourse Surface Water Resource Plan and proposed amendments for active management in the Macquarie and Gwydir unregulated water sources today. Approval for public exhibition will be sought subject to endorsement of the Water Resource Plan Working Group and the Regional Water Senior Officers Group.
Resumption of flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce presented key features of the proposed resumption of flow rule, guiding principles, summary of consultation and analysis undertaken. MDBA supported the rule, suggesting when presenting point out the simplicity of the concept. DPI Agriculture noted the need to clearly explain why the preferred option is selected. Fisheries noted risks still could arise relating to water quality and fish kills, as well as meeting needs in the Lower Darling, that may mean temporary water restrictions still need to be used in conjunction with or alongside the resumption rule.

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEWO supported the rule, and its relative simplicity and suggested using a simple message that when the river is dry let it run for a bit before pumping can start and consider including hydrographs in information to help with interpretation of the application of the rule. CEWO highlighted that the multi-sectional design is really important to convey, and the fact that the net impact, if we had considered the historical application of temporary water restrictions would have been less. • Additionally CEWO indicated they would like to see both resumption of flow and active management built into the WSP, and noted the risk if both rules didn't make it.
Active Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce presented the active management concept, objectives and guiding principles, key features of the proposed active management rules, and summary of consultation. • Several clarifications were sought from IWG members on the proposed approach to active management. • MDBA queried the timing of the procedures manual. The Taskforce explained that we are developing policy positions and will prepare Procedures Manuals later in year. CEWO suggested the Procedure Manuals doesn't follow too far behind the policy. • Comment was made by a number of members on the options for distributing the available volume to licence holders. • MDBA and CEWO noted they are happy with the general approach. • WaterNSW indicated their preferences for estimating losses that can be considered when Procedures Manuals are developed. • All noted that a lot of interest in active management is expected from stakeholders in Lower Darling.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed plan amendments will now seek NSW Government approval to go on public exhibition. • Meeting closed at 1:30pm. • Next meeting TBC.