



MEETING	NRAR Board Meeting		
MEETING NO.	03	DATE	14 February 2018
LOCATION	Secretary's Boardroom, MLC Building	TIME	2.00 – 6.00pm
ATTENDEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member), Ross Carter (CRO), Kendy Burke (Executive Officer), Emma Solomon (Director, Water Renewal Taskforce)		
APOLOGIES	n/a		
PREPARED BY	Kendy Burke (Executive Officer)		

### Previous meeting

Action	Status
Seek legal advice on the definition of natural resource legislation to be referred to in the code of conduct.	Completed.
Seek legal advice on the Board's role on dam safety	Completed. Confirmed the Board has no regulatory remit in relation to dam safety
Schedule a briefing on metering, including matters relating to the meeting of metering standards	Scheduled for 28 February meeting
Map the roles and responsibilities for each agency involved in water reforms	To be undertaken by Water Renewal Taskforce
Request WaterNSW to provide an update on its current compliance activities, including ongoing investigations and prosecutions	Completed.
Prepare a comparative review of public accessibility to information on property titles versus water management	Scheduled for 28 February Board meeting
Schedule a demonstration of the pilot online tool	Scheduled for 28 February Board meeting
Prepare NRAR communication and engagement strategy and action plan	Preparation underway
Amend draft NRAR regulatory policy to reflect Board discussions.	Amended. For publication
Schedule a meeting with Charlie Dowsett, A/Deputy Director General Water	Scheduling underway
Organise meetings with regional staff across NSW, visiting the major offices.	Scheduling underway
Seek legal advice on the Board's work, health and safety responsibilities and reflect this in the	Completed.

Action	Status
Board's governance documents.	

### This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	Conflict of interest – declarations	No declarations of interest were made.
2.	Update on action	<p>The Board was advised of legal advice confirming that it did not have a statutory role in relation to water sharing plans but had an influencing role by providing feedback to the Department's policy and planning functions to ensure practical and effective plans.</p> <p>The Board noted that interviews for the Chief Regulatory Officer and Directors were scheduled with the aim of roles being operational within six weeks.</p>
3.	Draft MDBA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	<p>The Board discussed the draft MOU with the MDBA.</p> <p>The Board will meet with the MDBA next week to sign the MoU.</p> <p>The Board noted the new Independent Assurance Committee of the MDBA was likely to review the delivery of the MoU.</p>
4.	Policy update	The Board was advised of work underway to amend the Water Management Act.
5.	Secretary meet and greet	<p>The Secretary welcomed the Board and noted the strong commitment by the Minister to the water reforms.</p> <p>The Secretary noted the importance of the NRAR in working with the policy and planning functions to ensure effective implementation of water plans and legislative reforms.</p> <p>The Board noted the need to reduce the complexity and readability of water sharing plans.</p> <p>The Secretary noted that a protocol would be prepared to articulate the roles and respective responsibilities for NRAR and the Department.</p> <p>The Board discussed the need to determine the budgetary proposal for the NRAR for 2018-19 and the need to clarify resourcing matters with WaterNSW.</p> <p>The Board noted that further resourcing of regional offices may be needed.</p>
6.	Healthy Floodplain project (management and harvesting)	The Board was provided a presentation on the Healthy Floodplain Project.

Item	Issue	Action
		<p>The Board requested that a presentation suitable for external stakeholders explaining the key terms, milestones and benefits be prepared.</p> <p>The Board requested ongoing briefings on this work.</p>
7.	Draft prosecution guidelines	<p>The Board endorsed the draft guidelines subject to inclusion of a statement that the guidelines would be reviewed periodically.</p> <p>Guidelines to be circulated to staff prior to publication.</p>
8.	NRAR publishing	<p>The Board discussed the extent of information it would seek to publish to determine whether any legislative barriers needed to be addressed.</p> <p>The Board noted its intention to publish all information and provide rationale for any information not published.</p>
9.	Other matters	<p>The Board Chair requested meetings be scheduled with aboriginal groups such as the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) as well as the NSW Farmers Federation.</p> <p>The Board was advised that WaterNSW had provided the requested report on current enforcement action. Report to be circulated.</p> <p>The Board was advised that it held WHS responsibilities for NRAR staff given that it is a decision making body of a crown entity. More detailed advice to be provided for the Board at its next meeting.</p>

**Next meeting**

Wednesday 28 February