



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.23	DATE	13 August 2019
LOCATION	Coleambally	TIME	1.30pm – 5.00pm
BOARD INVITEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member)		
NRAR INVITEES	Grant Barnes (Chief Regulatory Officer), Graeme White (Director Operations West), Alison Collaros (Manager Licencing & Approvals East), Russell Johnston (Executive Officer), Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer), Bryson Lashbrook (Water Regulation Officer)		
OTHER INVITEES	Listed next to relevant agenda item		

Agenda Item	Notes
Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of 10 July were confirmed with amendment.</li> <li>No declarations of a conflict of interest.</li> <li>The Board extended thanks to Coleambally Irrigation for hosting the meeting and providing the opportunity for site visits on 14 August.</li> </ul>
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided a paper for the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent NRAR media release following a guilty plea to an NRAR prosecution in the Land &amp; Environment Court</li> <li>NRAR mentioned in articles related to implementation of the new metering rules, and view of some stakeholders that rollout should be delayed.</li> <li>NRAR attendance at metering roadshows across NSW, supporting the Department and providing an overview of intended compliance pathways.</li> <li>CRO presentation at AWA Conference on Securing Regulatory Independence</li> </ul>
NRAR engagement with Irrigation Corporations	<p>Mr Lashbrook provided an overview of recent efforts to build relationships and commence regular engagement with the five irrigation corporations (ICs) as major water users in NSW.</p> <p>Grant Barnes advised that the responsibility for oversight of the Operating Licence's of ICs does not fall to the NRAR Board, but may reside with staff within the NRAR administrative body.</p> <p>The Board requested the CRO prepare advice on administrative functions presently conferred on NRAR by the Secretary (outside remit of Board) and possibility to be formally delegated to the Board by the Minister.</p>
Chief Regulatory Officer performance discussion	The Board met in-camera to discuss CRO Grant Barnes' 2018/19 Performance Review.
Prosecutions / Legal <i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i>	One matter was considered in relation to an ongoing investigation (confidential).
IPART submission – process overview <i>Invitee: Tim Gilbert (Director Regulatory Capability &amp; Coordination)</i>	<p>Mr Gilbert provided a high-level overview of the work and timelines for NRAR to participate in the Department's submission to IPART as part of the WAMC determination.</p> <p>The Board asked the Executive to consider whether NRAR may prefer to make an independent submission to IPART.</p>
Meeting with Coleambally Irrigation <i>Invitees: Coleambally Irrigation Board &amp; Executive</i>	Coleambally Irrigation provided an overview of their operations for the Board, including their early adoption of metering technology and the benefits this has had for members, and provided a tour of key site infrastructure.
Meeting with Murrumbidgee Irrigation	The Board and Murrumbidgee Irrigation held an introductory discussion on

<i>Invitees: Murrumbidgee Irrigation Board &amp; Executive</i>	respective roles and responsibilities. Murrumbidgee Irrigation provided the Board with a current market overview and update.
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<b>New/Continuing action items following meeting</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Brief Bruce Brown on NRAR finances outside of Board meeting schedule	Chief Regulatory Officer / Board Secretariat	monthly
Formal budget package, including revenues, expenses and reporting against key objectives	Board Secretariat	Once available
Independent review of proposed case triage methodology	Chief Regulatory Officer	Once available
Invite Jim Bentley to meet the Board	Board Secretariat	September
Request meeting with MDBA to discuss current compliance priorities and work plan	Board Secretariat	September
Briefing on use of emerging technologies in investigations	Director Innovation	September
Advice on administrative functions presently conferred on NRAR by the Secretary (outside remit of Board) and possibility to be formally delegated to the Board by the Minister.	Chief Regulatory Officer	September
Report back on strategic options to address how NRAR can fully meet its monitoring & audit obligations.	Chief Regulatory Officer	October
Advice on the forward-contract nature of agricultural commodities to better understand the implications for compliance.	Chief Regulatory Officer	October

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 17 September