

MEETING	Interagency Working Group (IWG) Meeting for Better Managing Environmental Water		
MEETING NO.	16	DATE	1 May 2019
LOCATION	Sydney CBD	TIME	10:30am – 4:30pm
ATTENDEES	Dol Water, Water NSW, OEH, MDBA, CEWO, DPI Fisheries, NRC Dol Water Renewal Taskforce		
APOLOGIES	DPI Agriculture, NRAR		

Agenda Item	Notes
Update from the Water Renewal Taskforce	The Taskforce gave an update on recruitment and other reform work being undertaken including metering and transparency. An Independent Review of the Taskforce identified that 34 of 35 WRAP deliverables due in December 2018 were delivered.
Previous Minutes	Minutes for IWG meeting #13 and #15 were endorsed. Minor corrections are required to Meeting #14 – these will be considered at the next meeting after edits are made.
IWG Member Updates	Agency representatives provided updates of key activities in their agencies since last meeting. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NRC review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling was announced in late January. 71 submissions have been received. Public exhibition of findings scheduled for 1 July 2019. A number of agencies have been involved in responding to fish deaths or reviews including the Productivity Commission, South Australian Royal Commission, Academy of Science Report and the Vertessy report. The reform work already under way responds to some of the recommendations. The Commonwealth has announced a \$70 million funding package, including voluntary buyback on A class licences The Commonwealth has agreed to extend the timeline for submission of WRPs in NSW to Dec 2019. A prioritisation framework for Northern Basin Toolkit funding is being developed and agencies are working on business cases. Long term water plans are progressing with some currently undergoing internal review.
IWG Terms of Reference	The IWG agreed to amend the IWG terms of reference to require meeting summaries to be published after IWG meetings.
Transparency, including online environmental water hub (e-hub)	The IWG provided comment on the layout and content of a draft environmental water hub website. The IWG noted that WRAP transparency deliverables are completed, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the requirement to publish information on protecting environmental water (as detailed in the Water Reform Action Plan independent review) and the requirement to publish explanatory material on how environmental water is managed. These deliverables will be built on with other agencies through the e-water hub.

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	<p>The IWG agreed that the Roadmap transparency deliverables to report on the Northern Connectivity Event has been met by existing reports and the expected CEWO evaluation report when it is released.</p> <p>The IWG noted progress on other Roadmap transparency related deliverables, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the analysis and report on the operation and outcomes of the March – April 2018 s.324 event in the Barwon–Darling is in draft form awaiting further analysis from WNSW to finalise, and • that the Roadmap progress report is due 16 June 2019.
Governance	<p>The IWG are to provide advice on enduring governance arrangements in quarter 2, 2019. The IWG discussed the nature of the advice it wishes to put forward.</p> <p>It was agreed that the advice should focus on coordination of water for the environment to support connectivity outcomes across the northern Basin. Focus should be on collaboration between decision makers, to work together to recognise and manage issues as they emerge, as well as recognising and planning for future issues.</p> <p>The Taskforce is to draft advice and provide to the IWG for comment to finalise this deliverable.</p>
Active Management	<p>The Taskforce outlined the agenda for the first active management targeted consultation workshop to be held on 2 May 2019 where the Taskforce will be seeking feedback on the scope of Active Management and draft policy positions and options from government agencies at this workshop.</p> <p>Feedback will also be sought from other stakeholders through further targeted consultation meetings, including a meeting with the Barwon-Darling Stakeholder Advisory Panel and further two meetings with targeted stakeholder representatives in the lower Macquarie-Bogan and lower Gwydir unregulated water sources, to be undertaken in June 2019.</p> <p>Feedback from this targeted consultation will inform positions that will go on Public Exhibition later in the year.</p>
Update on other work streams	<p>Barwon-Darling WSP Rules - Ecological assessments of options for Individual Daily Extraction limits and Resumption of Flows (first flush) are being completed and will feed into the economic analysis. This analysis will then inform the development of a package of proposed rule changes for the Barwon-Darling WSP to then go out on public exhibition.</p> <p>Northern Basin Connectivity - Analysis of WSP rule contribution to connectivity in northern Basin is in final draft and will be available shortly.</p>
Proposed field trip	<p>A field trip is proposed for sites along Barwon-Darling and in lower Macquarie-Bogan and lower Gwydir to get an on-ground understanding of issues to consider in developing environmental water solutions.</p>
General Business and next steps	<p>The Taskforce outlined next steps including scheduled dates for approval processes and stakeholder meetings.</p>
Next meeting	<p>6 June 2019</p>