



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.17	DATE	6 February 2019
LOCATION	Newcastle - Honeysuckle	TIME	10.00am – 5.00pm
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		
PREPARED BY	Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer)		

Agenda Item	Notes
Confirm Minutes Declaration of conflict of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of 14 November were confirmed.</li> <li>No declarations of a conflict of interest.</li> </ul>
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided an update for the Board:</p> <p><b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> NRAR and WaterNSW have agreed to an MOU as a framework for a cooperative relationship. The Board have requested the Secretariat to invite the WaterNSW Board to a future meeting to ratify the agreement.</p> <p><b>Communications/Media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRAR now has a social media presence on both Twitter and Facebook.</li> <li>A de-identified NRAR media release in December was shared in a social media group with the landholder named. The landholder had been cooperative with NRAR, and was caused undue stress. Future media releases will include a statement on the cooperation of landholders where relevant to prevent undue harm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Backlog cases</b> The Board were updated on NRAR progress in managing and reducing compliance cases inherited from the former department and WaterNSW.</p> <p><b>Employee engagement</b> NRAR has recently received the results of an employee engagement survey, showing improvement in all ten measured areas.</p> <p>Board member Bruce Brown raised an approach from the Australian Hydrographers Association (AHA) for support from NRAR for a Diploma in Water Operations (specialising in Hydrography / Hydrometrics) to be included on the NSW Smart and Skilled list through Training Services NSW. The Board discussed and agreed that NRAR would provide a letter of support.</p>
Compliance Comparison (2017-2018) <i>Invitee: Amanda Fuller (Senior Manager, Core Integrity)</i>	<p>Ms Fuller presented the Board an analysis of alleged breaches received across the 2017 and 2018 calendar years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67% increase in overall case volume</li> <li>400% increase in allegations of unauthorised water take</li> <li>263% increase in PINs issued</li> <li>360% increase in s329 Directions issued</li> </ul> <p>Ms Fuller advised she attributes the caseload increases to increased awareness and reporting, weather conditions (drought) and increased on-the-</p>

	<p>ground presence of NRAR compliance staff identifying cases.</p> <p>The Board were advised that NRAR has put in place a quality assurance framework to ensure that all cases are being handled appropriately and that regulatory outcomes are not impacted by the growth in case volume.</p>
2019/20 Financial Outlook	<p>The NRAR Board were presented with the current projected fiscal envelope for 2019/20, and current work volumes.</p> <p>The Board, noting increases to workloads and current financial constraints, instructed the CRO to maintain current resourcing levels through 2019/20, and to pursue funding arrangements as required to facilitate this.</p>
<p>Compliance Priorities – methodology</p> <p><i>Invitee: Kaia Hodge (Director Regulatory Innovation)</i></p>	<p>Ms Hodge outlined to the Board a methodology for preparing compliance priorities for the next two-year period.</p> <p>The Board endorsed a risk-based approach to setting compliance priorities based on ecological and hydrological analysis and in relation to the consequence and likelihood of non-compliance.</p> <p>The Board advised NRAR to consult with stakeholders on the methodology for determining priorities.</p>
<p>Prosecutions</p> <p><i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i></p>	<p>One matter was considered in relation to a prosecution (confidential).</p>
<p>Strategic Risk Register</p> <p><i>Invitees: Tim Gilbert (Director Capability &amp; Coordination), Sheree Jones (Manager Capability &amp; Coordination)</i></p>	<p>The Board were advised of a current project to redevelop risk-management frameworks and controls to align with learnings in the nine-months since the formation of NRAR.</p> <p>The Board requested an updated register be tabled for discussion in March, prior to an updated risk control plan in April.</p>
<p>Licensing &amp; Approvals</p> <p><i>Invitee: Gregory Abood (Director Operations East), Alison Collaros (Manager Licensing &amp; Approvals East)</i></p>	<p>The Board were advised that although Licensing and Approvals (L&amp;A) function in NRAR sits outside the statutory remit of the NRAR Board, public perception and the flow-on effects of licensing conditions to compliance and enforcement make the Board a key stakeholder in the licensing process.</p> <p>Work volumes in the L&amp;A space are steadily increasing, and a project has been undertaken to identify efficiencies to improve service delivery. It is expected that quick wins will be realised in early 2019, and the Board will be advised of longer term efficiency gains that may impact compliance and monitoring.</p>

<b>New/Continuing action items following meeting</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Peter Hyde to be invited to attend a future Board meeting to update on feedback received during public consultation.	Board Secretariat	March (scheduled)
Invite Northern Basin Commissioner Mick Keelty to future Board meeting	Board Secretariat	March (scheduled)
Invite Stephen Hardy to future Board meeting	Board Secretariat	March (scheduled)
Presentation on public register	Director Capability & Coordination	March
Information on best practice budget allocation – proactive education/prevention compared to reactive investigations	Program Lead Risk-Based Regulation	April

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday 13 March