



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.15	DATE	10 October 2018
LOCATION	Sydney MLC	TIME	11.30am – 4.30pm
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"> Minutes of 12 September 2018 were confirmed. No declarations of a conflict of interest.
General Business Update	<p>The Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted continued reduction in caseload NRAR inherited from WaterNSW and Department of Industry. The Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) advised the Board of increased resourcing to continue this reduction. Noted and supported the approach of the NRAR Executive to continue building staff engagement. Were updated on recent media attention relating to Wagga Wagga Council seeking water diversion to Lake Albert. NRAR is continuing to work with Council. <p>CRO Grant Barnes flagged to the Board disappointing reach of a recent media release, and the Board instructed further use of social media to support the NRAR message outside external publication channels. Mr Barnes advised that an audit on the Northern Connectivity Event has been completed and that he has recently approved a draft report with the MDBA that contains several findings and recommendations for future environmental flows. NRAR will work with the MDBA to publicise the findings of the report.</p>
NRAR Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRO Grant Barnes advised the Board of NRARs fiscal position for 2018/19 financial year, identifying risks and opportunities. The Board noted that the budget for NRAR was set prior to an understanding of inherited caseload or finalisation of the staffing structure. The Board endorsed the budget and expenses as presented and instructed the CRO to continue working with the Department to ensure required resourcing for NRAR. The Board were advised that Budget-to-Actuals reporting is presently unavailable during a system transition within the Department, and an update will be provided as soon as available.
NRAR Strategic Plan <i>Additional attendee: Kaia Hodge (Director Regulatory Innovation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaia Hodge presented to the Board a draft Strategic Plan on a Page for NRAR. Ms Hodge walked the Board through the development of the Strategic Plan and the work to align the plan with both the Department's Land & Water Divisional plan and regular business planning within NRAR. Ms Hodge noted the Strategic Plan is still in draft form, and intent to

	review to ensure that it aligns with the recommendations of Matthews and the Ombudsman's report.
Stakeholder Engagement – Jamie Morgan	The Board were preparing to meet with Mr Jamie Morgan who provided a late apology due to a personal matter.
Legal/Prosecution <i>Additional attendee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director Water Enforcement Taskforce)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board were advised of the recent appointment of three Legal Officers to support NRAR. The staff formally remain employees of DoI Legal but provide sole support to NRAR under day-to-day direction of the Director Water Enforcement taskforce. One matter was considered for prosecution (confidential). The Board endorsed the recommendation as made. The Chair moved the recommendation and it was carried unanimously.
Update – Water Resource Plans <i>Additional attendee: Peter Hyde (Director Water Planning)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted that the Board has the view that NRAR cannot perform its regulatory functions in an effective manner without adequate frameworks in the Water Sharing Plans (WSPs) supporting compliance and enforcement. Peter Hyde advised the Board that the language of WSPs will be progressively updated from that originally drafted in 2002-2004, to meet Commonwealth Water Resource Plan (WRP) obligations. The update will include simplifying the language around compliance conditions. Mr Hyde noted that clauses will be included in WSPs that enable management of water take if there is a breach of the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL). <p>The Board requested that Mr Hyde attend a future Board meeting to update on feedback received during public consultation.</p>
Update – Water Renewal Taskforce <i>Additional attendee: Kristin Morris (Director Water Policy Delivery)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristin Morris provided an update on Environmental Water reform, with public consultation intended for November following further modelling work. Ms Morris advised of Individual Daily Extraction Limits (IDELs) and Total Daily Extraction Limits (TDELs) for systems and intent to actively manage flows to support environmental water.
NRAR Communications <i>Additional attendees: Mark Higgs (Executive Director Communications & Engagement), Tim Gilbert (Director Regulatory Capability & Coordination)</i>	<p>The Chair iterated the high regard the Board has for their independence, and their particular desire that NRAR can demonstrate clear independence in their thinking through external communications. The Board have a need for a proper Communications and Media framework that supports this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Higgs supported the Boards' view of a need for independent lines of communication, and his team's commitment to support this. Mr Higgs and Mr Gilbert presented an already agreed approach to media releases and continuing work on a Communications Plan between NRAR and DoI C&E. Mr Higgs noted that DoI C&E is receptive to supporting NRAR having its own social media channels.
Floodplain Harvesting <i>Additional attendee: Graeme White (Director Regulatory Operations West), Geoff Cameron (Manager Floodplain Harvesting), Dan Connor (Project Lead Healthy Floodplains)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoff Cameron presented to the Board an overview of the current work of NRAR staff in the floodplain harvesting project. Dan Connor discussed the stakeholder consultations taking place and planned independent review of floodplain modelling data to support the policy.

New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Peter Hyde to be invited to attend a future Board meeting to update on feedback received during public consultation.	Board Secretariat	February
NRAR Communications Plan	Director Regulatory Capability & Coordination	November
Budget-to-Actuals Reporting	Chief Regulatory Officer	November

New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Invite Northern Basin Commissioner Mick Keelty to future Board meeting	Board Secretariat	February

Next meeting

Wednesday 14 November