



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.16	DATE	14 November 2018
LOCATION	Sydney MLC - L49 Secretary's Boardroom	TIME	12.00pm – 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"> Minutes of 10 October were confirmed. No declarations of a conflict of interest.
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided an update for the Board:</p> <p>Communications NRAR-DoI Communications SLA received in draft form today. Will be tabled at a future Board meeting once finalised.</p> <p>Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board were updated on recent NRAR media releases, including subsequent radio interviews the CRO had regarding NRARs first successful prosecution. The Board were advised of recent media attention regarding Lake Albert in Wagga Wagga. NRAR has worked with the local council to explain the requirements of applicants under legislation. The Board were advised of media and community interest regarding water mining in the Tweed Valley: NRAR investigated a complaint regarding the activities of water bottlers mining ground water sources in the Tweed Valley, however found no illegal activity. <p>Staffing The Board were advised that NRAR is progressing well with building operational capacity. NRAR will have a full complement of people-leaders in place from 19 November following recruitment.</p>
NRAR Budget Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes advised the Board of financial risks in NRARs budget, and confirmed that the Deputy Secretary Lands & Water has been briefed on the situation.</p> <p>The Board noted that Department of Industry are as yet unable to provide accurate Budget-to-Actuals reporting for NRAR.</p>
CRO 1st Quarter Performance Review	The Board met in-camera to discuss CRO Grant Barnes' 1 st Quarter Performance Review.
Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN)	Mr Fred Hooper issued an apology prior to the Board meeting and will be rescheduled to attend in the new year.
NRAR Board Stakeholder Engagement	The Board reviewed stakeholder engagements for 2018, and discussed direction on a stakeholder engagement plan for 2019. A forward plan of stakeholder meetings to be presented in February board meeting.
Legal team introduction	The NRAR Legal team were introduced to the Board. The Chair spoke to

<i>Invitees: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET), Nina Lucas (Principal Legal Officer), Claire Guilfoyle (Senior Legal Officer), Alex Cassar (Senior Legal Officer)</i>	the critical nature of the legal work for the success of NRAR, and the need for the independent regulator to receive independent legal advice.
Water Markets Report <i>Invitee: Wilfred Finn (Aither)</i>	Mr Finn provided a presentation to the NRAR Board on water market trends including pricing and volumes of trade. Mr Finn advised of risks with growth in permanent plantations in some regions increasing demand during a period of diminished supply.
Update – Water Renewal Taskforce <i>Invitee: Emma Solomon (Group Director Water Renewal Taskforce)</i>	Ms Solomon provided an update to the NRAR Board on community consultation and feedback regarding the draft regulations. Feedback has been received from some groups requesting relaxation of telemetry requirements on smaller meters, and on extending timeframes before new metering requirements are in place. The Board asserted its views that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If discretion to extend time-frames is to be applied that the power rests with the independent regulator. • Risks relating to water take are not solely based on the volume of a pipe. External factors such as environmental conditions must be considered when requiring telemetry. • Reducing telemetry will mean increased resourcing requirements for NRAR to attend sites and read/check meters.
Floodplain Harvesting – Monitoring & Audit Strategy <i>Invitee: Nicola Mead (Project Lead Healthy Floodplains)</i>	Ms Mead provided an overview of the Floodplain Harvesting – Monitoring & Audit Strategy that will commence community consultation this month. Licensing of floodplain harvesting will require ongoing compliance monitoring by NRAR to ensure licence conditions are met.
WHS Duties for Boards <i>Invitee: Stephen Hardy</i>	Mr Hardy was an apology and will be rescheduled in early 2019.

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
Budget-to-Actuals Reporting	Chief Regulatory Officer	Ongoing/monthly
Invite Northern Basin Commissioner Mick Keelty to future Board meeting	Board Secretariat	February
Stakeholder engagement plan	Board Secretariat	February

Next meeting

Thursday 20 December