

NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.32	DATE	17 June 2020
LOCATION	VC / 4PSQ	TIME	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
BOARD INVITEES	Craig Knowles (Chair), Ilona Millar (member), Bruce Brown (member)		
NRAR INVITEES	Grant Barnes (Chief Regulatory Officer), Russell Johnston (Executive Officer), Sharon Ryan (Board Secretariat)		
OTHER INVITEES	Listed next to relevant agenda item		

Agenda Item	Notes
Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of 20 May were adopted as a true and accurate record.</li> <li>No declarations of a conflict of interest.</li> <li>Board Chair joined the meeting during Agenda Item 1; no decisions were made in his absence.</li> </ul>
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes provided an update for the Board:</p> <p><b>NRAR in the media</b> NRAR received regional media coverage in relation to its Operation Drawdown Media Release and completion of the Woolgoolga Dam investigation. This included one print article and four interview requests.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder engagement</b> NRAR has commenced IPART's request for consultation regarding the MoU between WaterNSW/NRAR MOU. Staff will report to the July Board meeting.</p> <p><b>RE-EMERGING FROM COVID-19</b> Lessening of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed field work to recommence in East and West, doing so under strict precautions and following hygiene and social distancing protocols. Staff are encouraged to continue to work from home if they can to ease strain on the transport network.</p> <p><b>NRAR Pilot program – MDB region</b> Proposal to establish a routine monitoring programme focused on the MDB region for a twelve-month period. Up to 24 mostly grade 3/4 officers to be recruited, targeting regional opportunities and indigenous roles..</p> <p><b>Resignation of NSWIC' CEO Luke Simpkins</b> Bruce Brown advised Clare Miller has been appointed as interim CEO.</p> <p><b>Role Swap for 9 months</b> Greg Abood and Graeme White are swapping roles for the next 9 months, commencing 1 July.</p> <p><b>Drone Training</b> Drone training has been successfully rolled out and is in its second phase. The Board expressed keen interest in a more interactive regional meeting in the coming months to include demonstrations in the field.</p>

<p>Metrics Report – L&amp;A continuous improvement <i>Invitees: Graeme White (Director Reg West) and Bryson Lashbrook (A/ Manager Licensing and Approvals )</i></p>	<p>Mr Lashbrook provided a comprehensive project update.</p> <p>The Board commended the work being done and noted that an increase in average process times in April 2020 was due to a program that closed older tasks, and not a reflection on current processing times.</p>
<p>Reform Implementation Program <i>Invitee: Jim Bentley (CEO DPIE Water) and Amanda Chadwick</i></p>	<p>Dr Bentley and Ms Chadwick provided an update on the Water reform program's delivery to date and the focus of its attention moving forward. Dr Bentley advised that the NRAR CRO is playing an integral role bridging the gap between regulatory compliance, strategy and policy.</p>
<p><b>MDBA – review findings</b> <i>Invitee: Chris Guest (Independent consultant) and Tara Schalk (Manager Compliance Monitoring &amp; Audit (West - Murray Darling)</i></p>	<p>Mr Guest advised the Board that the report is a good story of openness, collegiality and cooperation, and is a credit to both organisations. He recommended the next iteration provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each agency and that the MDBA consider developing MoU's with other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Board noted with great appreciation the effort of Mr Guest in the review process, agreeing to the recommendation made in his report.</p>
<p>Prosecutions Update <i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i></p>	<p>Four matters were considered in relation to current or proposed prosecutions (confidential). The Board resolved to adopt recommendations as presented, with the exception of one recommendation which was updated to reflect the desire for a communications plan and the need to update the paper based on late arriving legal advice.</p> <p>CRO put forth his appreciation of the efforts made by Ms Ruddock; agreed upon by the Board.</p>
<p>IPART update <i>Invitees: Tim Gilbert (Director RC&amp;C), Stuart Ronan (Principal Project Officer Economics)</i></p>	<p>The Board was updated on NRARs progress and next steps in preparing its IPART submission that is in its final stages of preparation.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the paper as presented, congratulating Messer's Gilbert and Ronan on outstanding work.</p>
<p>NRAR Privacy Management Plan <i>Invitees: Geoff Cameron (Manager Regulatory Practice) and Kate McPherson (Project Officer, Regulatory Practice)</i></p>	<p>The Board were updated on NRAR's draft Privacy Management Plan and the differences between DPIE and NRAR's plans. The Board asked if Dams Safety should be included; with the Chair supportive of a separate policy.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the paper as presented, commending the work done.</p> <p>Well wishes to Mr Cameron on his 12-month secondment to DPIE until June 2021.</p>
<p>Metering update <i>Invitee: Kaia Hodge (A/Group Director Water Renewal Taskforce)</i></p>	<p>Ms Hodge provided an update on the work of the Water Renewals Taskforce in relation to the critical milestones for 30 June 2020</p> <p>The Board asked for more information to be provided on the three different models proposed for use in telemetry and metering.</p> <p>The Board requested update at July Board meeting on Investigation of NRAR's contribution to ensure visibility of metering and telemetry with regard to our reg and compliance needs and how we built relationships with those in charge in an ongoing BAU environment.</p> <p>The Board noted the paper as presented, congratulating Ms Hodge on her promotion and seeking regular updates.</p>
<p>NRAR Board Appointments <i>Invitee: Ryan Lynn (Senior Project Officer)</i></p>	<p>Mr Lynn presented a framework for undertaking NRARs future Board appointments to ensure consistency of governance.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the paper as presented.</p>

OUT OF SESSION ENDORSEMENT	The Board endorsed recommendations as presented to them on two prosecution matters via email.
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<b>New/Continuing action items following meeting</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Invite WaterNSW Board to a future NRAR Board meeting	Board Secretariat	TBC
Board engagement in NRAR Executive Strategic planning workshop	Board Secretariat	Q1 2020/21
Report on compliance trends	Chief Regulatory Officer	July
Investigate reasons behind WaterNSW lodging a separate IPART submission whilst NRAR and the department's submission is coupled.	Russell Johnston	July
Investigate NRAR's contribution to ensure visibility of metering and telemetry regarding our reg and compliance needs and how we built relationships with those in charge in an ongoing BAU environment.	Margaret Sexton	July

**Next meeting**

Wednesday 15 July 2020