



Meeting Summary

MEETING	Interagency Working Group – Environmental Water in NSW		
MEETING NO.	21	DATE	19 June 2020
LOCATION	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting	TIME	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
ATTENDEES	DPIE-Water, WaterNSW, NRAR, DPIE-EES, DPI Fisheries, MDBA, CEWO, NRC, DPIE Water Renewal Taskforce		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.
Northern Connectivity brochure and animation update	<p>The Chair thanked the Interagency Working Group (IWG) for their comments on the '<i>Northern Connectivity: Better management of environmental water in NSW</i>' brochure which is now being processed for publication. Noted a supporting animation has been developed to communicate the reforms which will be made available on the Department's website and shared via social media.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the eHUB webpage is being updated with information developed by the Water Renewal Taskforce.</p>
Final progress report against interim and enduring solutions and final report to the Minister (re: IWG work)	The Chair advised that a final progress report summarising the work completed under the Better Management of Environmental Water (eWater) reform workstream and is being translated into a public brochure. The group noted the need to highlight ongoing consideration of eWater reforms and enduring governance arrangements.
Handover process, progress, and next steps	DPIE Water advised that the Department has been undertaking a handover process to transition the eWater reform from development into implementation phase.
Active Management Procedures Manuals and targeted consultation update and next steps	<p>DPIE Water updated the group on progress and feedback from targeted consultation on draft Active Management Procedures Manuals in the Barwon-Darling, Macquarie and Gwydir. Noted that feedback from the Barwon-Darling acknowledged the need for active management and supported the draft procedures, noting an interest in viewing their IDECs. Gwydir targeted consultation attendees supported the draft procedure manuals but noted concerns about localised rainfall events and thresholds in some water sources. The Macquarie targeted consultation session was contentious, and attendees did not support the implementation of active management in the area, raising a variety of concerns. It was noted that further follow up is required with stakeholders in the Macquarie to respond to their concerns.</p> <p>DPIE Water noted that formal face to face consultation is now closed, however, submissions can be submitted until 30 June. Further engagement</p>



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	activities with a focus on educating licence holders about active management are planned for November.
Education Strategy and Delivery Plan	DPIE Water updated the group on implementation of the Education Strategy and Delivery Plan, which aims to improve understanding of rules related to eWater reforms. The focus has been on sharing information to support licence holders' understanding of Individual Daily Extraction Components (IDECs) and resumption of flows rules in the Barwon-Darling as well as active management in the northern Basin.
Lessons learned session	The IWG held a 'lessons learned' session to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the eWater reform to date, and identify opportunities for improvement.
Thanks, meeting close and adjournment of Interagency Working Group	The Chair thanked the IWG for their contributions to the eWater reform program and adjourned the Working Group.