



NRAR Board meeting - Minutes

MEETING	NRAR Board meeting		
MEETING NO.	No.20	DATE	1 May 2019
LOCATION	Sydney MLC – L48 Kingfisher	TIME	12.00pm – 4.00pm
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		

Agenda Item	Notes
Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of April meeting were confirmed. No declarations of a conflict of interest.
General Business Update	<p>CRO Grant Barnes updated the Board on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Valley Irrigators meeting – along with the Department & WaterNSW, NRAR met with stakeholders to discuss the recent s324 embargo, how it was communicated, and NRAR approaches to compliance for similar events. Regulatory policy – discussed minor clarifying amendments to the published policy following community questions/feedback, highlighting public interest as a factor in decision making. Licensing & Approvals – update to the Board on work NRAR is doing in L&A to reduce backlog of applications and improve efficiency, and resulting implications for monitoring and compliance.
<p>Legal model – discussion with DOI/DPE Legal</p> <p><i>Invitees: Tim Holden (General Counsel DOI), James Hebron (General Counsel DPE)</i></p>	<p>In light of recent Machinery of Government (MoG) changes to the public sector the Board invited the Department’s General Counsels to discuss the operating model for NRARs legal support. Agreement was reached between parties that the current model will continue in the new Department.</p>
<p>Legal Matters</p> <p><i>Invitee: Kirsty Ruddock (Director WET)</i></p>	<p>General update for the Board on progression of previously discussed matters (confidential).</p>
<p>Liz Livingstone (Deputy Secretary Lands & Water)</p>	<p>The Board thanked Ms Livingstone for her work in establishing NRAR and her strong support for NRARs independence as a regulator.</p>
<p>WHS Briefing</p> <p><i>Invitee: Tim Gilbert (Director Capability & Coordination)</i></p>	<p>Mr Gilbert provided the Board with a comprehensive update on work being undertaken within NRAR to ensure the health and safety of officers. Significant investments have been made in training and field-technology to ensure the safety of officers.</p> <p>The Board discussed the handling of a recent incident of an NRAR Officer being made to feel unsafe in their role, and noted appreciation for the intervention of a manager on behalf of the staff member.</p>
<p>DOI Water Update / Floodplain Harvesting Briefing</p> <p><i>Invitees: Rachel Connell (Executive Director Water), Daniel Blacker (Group Director Water Programs & Performance), Dan Connor (Project Manager Healthy Floodplains)</i></p>	<p>DOI Water provided an update on the planned strategy for monitoring and auditing floodplain water take following community consultation.</p> <p>The Board queried the option of satellite imagery to support floodplain monitoring, but were advised of prohibitive costs in undertaking this work on a broad scale at this stage.</p>
<p>Introduction to new Minister</p>	<p>The Board held an introductory meeting with The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP.</p>

<p><i>Invitees: The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Tom Chesson (Water Advisor)</i></p>	<p>The Minister noted appreciation for what NRAR has been able to achieve in its first 12 months of operation, and endorsed the importance of NRARs independence in exercising its regulatory functions.</p> <p>The Board advised the Minister that whilst they exercise their decision-making independently, the ability of NRAR to deliver effective compliance & enforcement is dependent on adequate funding through the Department.</p>
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New/Continuing action items following meeting	Person responsible	Due date
Information session – Water use in mines	Director WET	June
Information on best practice budget allocation – proactive education/prevention compared to reactive investigations	Program Lead Risk-Based Regulation	June
Legacy Case Review	Director Operations East	June
Strategic Risk Register – Risk Control Plan	Director Capability & Coordination	June
Operational Risk document	Director Capability & Coordination	June

Next meeting

Wednesday 12 June