

Town Water Risk Reduction Program—Outcomes and action items

Meeting 17 | 22 June 2022, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Attendees

Table 1. Attendees.

Invitees	Guests	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clr Bill West, Local Government NSW • Mr Graham Kennett, Kyogle Council • Mr Aaron Drenovski, Goldenfields Water • Mr David Kirby, Brewarrina Shire Council • Mr Brendan Guiney, NSW Water Directorate • Dr Katrina Wall, NSW Health Water Unit. • Ms Melissa Gibbs, Office of Local Government (until item 5) • Mr Peter Marczan, Manager Technical Assessments & Advice, Environment Protection Authority • Dr Annalisa Contos, Atom Consulting • Ms Erin Cini – Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program (Chair) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Amanda Chadwick, Executive Director Performance, DPE Water (until item 6) • Ms Carmel Krogh, Independent Advisor to DPE Water • Mr Shaun McBride, Chief Economist, LGNSW • Mr Patrick Lee, LGNSW • Mr Shaun McBride, Chief Economist, LGNSW • Mr Patrick Lee, LGNSW • Ms Meredith Macpherson Central West JO • Ms Chen Chou, Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE - Water • Ms Kerry Conroy, Principal Policy Officer, OLG • Frontier Economics - Mr John Smith, Mr Dinesh Kumareswaran, Mr James Key (until item 4) 	<p>Town Water Risk Reduction Program team members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Josh Tickell • Mr Andrew Fraser • Mr Glen Colley • Mr Tim Stevenson • Ms Althea Kannane • Ms Sonya Cochrane (Secretariat)

Apologies

- Ms Jenny Bennett, Central West Joint Organisation of Councils
- Mr Graham Attenborough, Chief Operating Officer, DPE Water
- Mr Michael Blackmore, Director Local Water Utilities, DPE – Water
- Mr Sascha Moege, Manager, Town Water Risk Reduction Program
- Dr Nanda Altavilla, Principal Policy Officer, Town Water Risk Reduction Program

Outcomes

Table 2. Agenda items and outcomes.

Agenda item	Outcomes
1	<p>Acknowledgement of country and meeting welcome</p>
2	<p>Administrative matters</p> <p>Declarations of conflicts of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clr Bill West – Cowra Shire Council – TWRRP IWCM Pilot • Dr Annalisa Contos – Atom Consulting – Griffith City Council IWCM pilot, Incident and emergency management project • Ms Meredith Macpherson – Central NSW JO - TWRRP Trade Waste pilot • Mr Graham Kennett - Kyogle Council - Potential WaterNSW pilot. <p>Welcome new members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As previously advised, Ms Jenny Bennett of Central West Joint Organisation is replacing Ms Rebel Thomson, as a representative of NSW Joint Organisations of Councils. Ms Meredith Macpherson is the alternative representative of the Joint Organisations and was welcomed today in Ms Bennett's absence.
3	<p>Outcomes/actions from the previous meeting</p> <p>The Panel received a briefing from the TWRRP team on the outcomes and actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p>One item remains outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 15.3 TWRRP to prepare a one-page overview of the WaterNSW river water qualities document and place on web page - In progress
4	<p>Stage 1 alternative funding models - Frontier Economics presentation</p> <p>Frontier Economics presented on the project scope, objectives and key areas of analysis and investigation.</p> <p>Panel members were encouraged to provide feedback on items in the presentation to Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE Water.</p> <p>GUIDANCE:</p> <p>Panel members stated the focus for alternative funding models should be on identifying Local Water Utilities in greatest need. Panel members recommended using the Financial Assistance Grants methodology and/or data, administered by the NSW Grants Commission, as a basis for disability assessments.</p> <p>In response to questions about consultation with the sector on the draft data set, the Executive Director Performance DPE Water, advised that as a preliminary investigation, the</p>

Agenda item	Outcomes
	<p>engagement approach is to speak experts and the Stakeholder Advisory Panel. Panel members offered to nominate appropriate experts.</p> <p>Other matters cabinet in confidence were discussed.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM 17.1</p> <p>Panel members provide feedback on Stage 1 Alternative funding model to Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE – Water, Chen Chou</p> <p>ACTION 17.2</p> <p>Panel members Cnr Bill West, Mr Shaun McBride, Ms Jenny Bennett and Ms Meredith Macpherson to provide to Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE – Water, Chen Chou, a list of experts for alternative funding model consultation</p>
5	<p>Regulatory and assurance framework – Update</p> <p>The department’s Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program provided an update on the approval process of the Framework for commencement 1 July and noted that delegations will be in place.</p> <p>All guidance material being developed to support the implementation of strategic planning outcomes and internal processes is either progressing or procurement for the work is underway. The performance monitoring indicator set is being finalised for consultation and the risk-based regulation training for Water Utilities team has commenced.</p> <p>The Regulator collaboration framework has been endorsed and signed by all regulators.</p> <p>GUIDANCE:</p> <p>A Panel member asked where the review process is outlined for situations where there is disagreement on the outcome of decisions on quality assurance. The department’s Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program advised this process is contained in the Guidance material and that under the new framework, processes for both the sector and the department provide opportunities to escalate concerns throughout the process. The recommendation from a Panel member to ensure this is clearly explained to the sector to address any possible concerns with regard to this was supported and agreed to.</p>
6	<p>Quality assurance – Update</p> <p>The Director Water Utilities provided an update on the objectives and approach being taken to the quality assurance framework and outlined the internal and external quality assurance measures.</p> <p>Based on professional advice, the framework will be delivered in stages in order to manage the identified risk of not achieving outcomes due to full implementation being overwhelming. Initial internal quality assurance measures focus on context, leadership and support and external measures focus on role clarity, accountability, transparency, collaboration and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>GUIDANCE</p>

Agenda item	Outcomes
	<p>Panel members asked how it will be measured and how the sector will be consulted. The Director Town Water Risk Reduction Program encouraged Panel members and those in their area of influence to complete the Regulator perception survey. The department needs to consider what is measured, how and with who and how this can be done most effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>A discussion on the future of the partnership approach and the role undertaken by Stakeholder Advisory Panel identified support for the continuing role of the Panel and identified future projects it could undertake. A number of Panel members nominated their organisations to continue the work. A future partnership model of panel members/sector/department is to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM 17.3</p> <p>Report on NSW Water Directorate and Local Government NSW meeting</p>
7	<p>WaterNSW pilots – Update</p> <p>An update was given on the progress of the dam safety and integrated river systems pilots. It was noted that the catchment management pilot is in final scoping.</p> <p>A report on the pilots was taken to the Water Sector Leaders Group meeting in June. Group members expressed their support for the program.</p> <p>The Jerilderie WaterNSW pilot risk workshop was held in June with very positive feedback from those in attendance.</p> <p>GUIDANCE</p> <p>In response to questions about data collected, it was confirmed that there are on-line instruments that measure environmental factors, which are taken monthly. There is little data other than environmental data collected and it was noted by WaterNSW that monitoring needs to be improved and aligned with regulators such as NSW Health.</p>
8	<p>Implementation of skills and training – Update</p> <p>An update was provided on strategies to overcome barriers to Recognised Training Organisations entering the market, and strategies to support the attraction and retention of staff and promote and support training in NSW.</p>
9	<p>Other matters raised by Panel members</p> <p>Nil</p>
10	<p>Next meeting and close</p> <p>The next Panel Meeting is 27 July 2022, and will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft report - Stage 1 alternative funding models • Evaluation framework – update • Regional collaboration pilots - update • Regulatory and assurance framework – update

Agenda item	Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future partnership model between the sector and government agencies (Action item 17.3) Report on NSW Water Directorate meeting with Local Government NSW (Action item 17.4)

Actions arising from 22 June 2022 meeting

Table 3. Summary of actions.

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Status
15.3	TWRRP to prepare a one-page overview of the WaterNSW river water qualities document and place on web page	TWRRP team	25 May 2022	Pending
17.1	Panel members provide feedback on Stage 1 Alternative funding model to Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE – Water, Chen Chou	Panel members	6 July 2022	Pending
17.2	Panel members to provide to Director Water Reform Implementation Strategy, DPE – Water, Chen Chou, a list of experts for alternative funding model consultation	Clr Bill West Mr Shaun McBride Ms Jenny Bennett Ms Meredith Macpherson	6 July 2022	Pending
17.3	Report on NSW Water Directorate and Local Government NSW meeting	Brendan Guiney	27 July 2022	Pending

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