

Agenda

Healthy Floodplain Review Committee Orientation Meeting

Tuesday 9 June 2015

| Time | Agenda Item | Address | Presenter |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | Field inspection of a floodplain harvesting system & demonstration of the equipment used by the Office of Water to collection floodplain harvesting site inspection data | ██████████ Namoi Valley ██████████ | ██████████ Manager of ██████████ ██████████ Namoi Valley, will show us a floodplain harvesting site. ██████████ Water Regulation Officer Office of Water, will demonstrate the Getac system |
| 12:00-12:30 | Travel from ██████████ to meeting room | Diggers Room Narrabri RSL Club | |
| 12:30-13.30 | Overview of the Healthy Floodplains Project | 7 Maitland Street Narrabri | ██████████, Manager Healthy Floodplains Project, Office of Water |
| 13:30-14:30 | Floodplain harvesting site inspections | | ██████████, Licensing Coordinator Healthy Floodplains Project, Office of Water |
| 14:30-15:00 | Role of the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee | | ██████████ |
| 15:00-16:00 | Floodplain Management Plans | | ██████████, Senior Team Leader Healthy Floodplains Project, Office of Environment & Heritage |
| 16:00-16:30 | Claims for meeting fees and expenses | | ██████████, Project Officer Sustaining the Basin Finance & Reporting |
| 16:30 | Close | | |

NB Working lunch & afternoon tea will be provided



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|-------------|--|----------|------------|
| to | [REDACTED] Director Water Regulatory Operations North | | |
| from | [REDACTED] Licensing Coordinator Healthy Floodplains Project | t | [REDACTED] |
| | | f | [REDACTED] |
| | | e | [REDACTED] |
| date | 16 June 2015 | | |

Subject: Healthy Floodplains Review Committee Meeting 9 June 2015

Purpose

To apprise you of the meeting content and outcomes.

Background

The Healthy Floodplains Review Committee has been set up in accordance with the provisions of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy. The committee deals with stakeholder submissions in regard to NOW's preliminary determinations of floodplain harvesting eligibility and floodplain harvesting entitlements.

The preliminary determination review procedures approved by the then NSW Commissioner for Water (equivalent position is now Deputy Director General Water) allow for internal consideration of submissions by disaffected registrants. If NOW considers that a submission warrants further consideration, the submission should be referred to the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee. The committee will analyse the case and make an appropriate recommendation to the Office of Water.

The Healthy Floodplains Review Committee is chaired by [REDACTED], Chair North West Local Lands Services. The other members are [REDACTED], NSW Irrigators Council, [REDACTED], NSW Farmers Association and [REDACTED], NSW Nature Conservation Council. It operates in accordance with Terms of Reference endorsed by the NSW Commissioner for Water and is based on the Volumetric Conversions Anomalies Committee that operated during the early 2000s.

Four submissions regarding floodplain harvesting eligibility have been received to date. Three of these cases have been resolved internally without the need for the committee to be involved. The other case is still under investigation but it seems unlikely that it will need to be referred to the committee.

Although there has been no need to convene the committee to date, it is likely that stakeholder submissions will be received in respect of the individual Gwydir floodplain harvesting share components/rainwater runoff allowances, which should be released for stakeholder consultation in July 2015. Hence it was considered prudent to hold an orientation meeting for the committee so that they are aware of their role and responsibilities.

Meeting Program

| Time | Location | Remarks |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 10:00-12:00 | [REDACTED] Narrabri | This portion of the meeting was hosted by committee member [REDACTED] who is also the Manager of [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] Namoi Valley. The group inspected one of [REDACTED] floodplain harvesting sites. [REDACTED], Water Regulation Officer Floodplain Harvesting, demonstrated the electronic systems NOW uses on-site to capture floodplain harvesting data. |
| 13:00-14:00 | Diggers Room Narrabri RSL Club | [REDACTED], Manager Healthy Floodplains Project, gave the committee an overview of the project. |
| 14:00-14:30 | | [REDACTED], Licensing Coordinator HFP, explained the roles and responsibilities of the Committee and gave details of the submissions received to date and their resolution. |
| 14:30-15:00 | | [REDACTED] explained the current position in regard to floodplain harvesting site inspections and irrigator behaviour questionnaires. |
| 15:00-15:30 | | [REDACTED] gave details of the floodplain management plan component of the HFP. |
| 15:30-15:45 | | [REDACTED], Sustaining the Basin Finance & Reporting Officer, explained the process for claiming sitting fees and associated expenses. |
| 15:45-16:00 | | The committee set 4.9.15 at Moree as the tentative date and location for its next meeting. |
| 16:00 | | Close |

Meeting Outcomes

The committee gained an appreciation of:

1. the purpose and aims of the Healthy Floodplains Project,
2. the methodology used by NOW for the collection of floodplain harvesting data, and
3. the roles and responsibilities of the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee.

It was the consensus of the committee that its main role would be to review submissions from floodplain harvesting registrants dissatisfied with their allotted share components/rainwater runoff allowances. Further, the committee felt that the only way it could make a meaningful contribution to the review process would be if a small proportion of the total floodplain harvesting share component/rainwater runoff allowance for each valley, say 5%, was initially unallocated. This pool of unassigned water could then be used to redress those cases where the committee felt that the registrant had supplied credible evidence that warranted an increase in their share component/runoff allowance. At the conclusion of the review process for each

valley, any unassigned volume remaining in this pool would be distributed to eligible registrants on a pro rata basis.

A separate submission has been prepared requesting that the committee's proposal be included in forthcoming stakeholder consultation concerning floodplain harvesting entitlement modelling.

Recommendation

That you note the information provided.

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