

## Details

- Meeting:** Healthy Floodplains Review Committee Meeting
- Location:** Microsoft Teams video conference
- Date/time:** Wednesday 27 January 2021  
11.00am – 4.37pm
- Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

## Apologies

1. [REDACTED] Senior Project Officer, DPIE-Water
2. [REDACTED], Water Regulatory Officer, NRAR

## People present

### Committee:

3. [REDACTED], Independent Chair of the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee
4. [REDACTED], NSW Nature Conservation Council representative and landholder, Mudgee
5. [REDACTED] NSW Irrigators Council representative, local irrigator and landholder, Moree
6. [REDACTED], Acting President NSW Farmers Association representative

### Guests:

7. [REDACTED], Advisor to Committee, NSW Farmers Association, landholder from Caroon area of the Liverpool Plains
8. [REDACTED], Policy Director Environment, NSW Farmers Association via Teams (Alternate member to [REDACTED])
9. [REDACTED], Alluvium Consulting Australia
10. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Consulting via Teams

### DPIE-Water Healthy Floodplains:

11. [REDACTED], Director Healthy Floodplains
12. [REDACTED], Principal Project Officer
13. [REDACTED], Senior Project Officer, DPIE-Water (12pm on)
14. [REDACTED], Project Officer (minutes)

### Natural Resources Access Regulator:

15. [REDACTED], Manager Floodplain Harvesting
16. [REDACTED], Senior Water Regulatory Officer (via Teams)

## This meeting

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
1	<p>Meeting open</p> <p>V2 DPIE confidentiality forms signed by all prior to meeting commencing.</p> <p>██████████ welcomed all and noted attendance / apologies.</p> <p>11.07am</p>	Noted	
2	<p>Declaring conflict of interests.</p> <p>██████████ – The same as the previous meeting: declared his cousins ██████████ and ██████████ work for ██████████ ██████████. Also, N132 ██████████ is owned by ██████████ a cousin (note this submission was not discussed at this meeting). ██████████ declared no financial interests in either.</p> <p>██████████ - Barwon Darling – ██████████ paper for Barwon Darling as his property is ██████████. No decision required today. If decision needed, he would declare pecuniary interest.</p>	Noted	
4	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Titles – ██████████ requested amendment to ██████████ to Advisor to committee and ██████████ who is an observer unless needing to stand in for ██████████ as an alternate member.</p> <p>██████████ to check whether ██████████ is a member of NSW Farmers Association, as terms of reference requirement.</p> <p>Amended minutes moved by ██████████</p> <p>Seconded by ██████████</p>	<p>Noted and amended.</p> <p>██████████ to check membership of ██████████ ██████████</p> <p>Carried</p>	DPIE- Water

# Healthy Floodplains Review Committee



Meeting 37 minutes dated 27 January 2021

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
5	Out of Session meetings	Individual members deal with the out of sessions queries with a one on one in the first instance with the Department.  Any differences in committee determinations to be tabled for committee to be bought back to future committee meeting for determinations.	Department
	11.43 am Meeting paused		
	11.55 am Meeting commenced		

- 6 [REDACTED] presentation on Gwydir revised modelling changes to explain paper. Refer to track changes in original Gwydir modelling paper (Supplied to committee).
- Revisions – checks and balances reviewing, and documenting model build reports.
  - Losses, over 35 river reaches between major river gauges and tributary in flows, overbank flows.
  - Gwydir – preserved flows not being maintained or better –
  - Took opportunity to include more updated data into model tributary inflows
  - Rainfall runoff models originally done 15 years ago, took opportunity to update into current model
  - No change to individual properties since original draft report
  - Losses and flows down river have been adjusted.
  - Rainfall runoff rate checked and not altered
  - Overall result – haven't changed total diversions by large amount but have reduced the general harvesting in the valley by about 4.5%.
  - Translates to changes between individuals rather than overall valley scale. Individuals have resulted in either increase or decrease in model take compared to pre to latest revision, 18 negatively impacted. Approximately 80 higher FPH than before due to the submission process and valley scale model changes outlined above. Most impacts less than 100 ML/year – and

overall it is a small change  
small % change. 1 or 2  
individuals have had a large  
negatively impact.

■■■ – questioned how many properties  
made a submission/affected?

■■■ – Due to flow recalculation, 18  
have seen reduction.

■■■■■ – What is the FPH valley cap?

■■■ - FPH Gwydir valley cap is  
135GL/year.

■■■ queried 135GL.

■■■ - 170GL is current diversions but  
historically set, in plans mandates that  
the lower amount. Model has resulted  
in change. Licences are unit share not  
a volume. The share component  
changes. Surface water components  
includes FPH. Water Sharing Plan  
includes general security, access and  
diversions. FPH feeds in to diversion  
and then into the overall surface water  
plan limit conditions.

■■■ – The licence is a unit not an  
amount.

■■■ - Final peer review by ■■■■■  
to occur. Please note that the reports  
contain market sensitive information  
therefore confidentiality agreement  
applies. Gwydir is showing floodplain  
harvesting change and it is market  
sensitive information.

■■■■■ and ■■■■ enquired on the  
BDL (Basin Diversion Limit)?

■■■ – The BDL 210 estimate was  
based on the Basin Plan Model back in  
2012 when plan was put together which  
was all that was available at that time.  
BDL is a legal definition in the plans –  
estimating occurring now using new  
estimate number, which will increase.

Valley estimates are presented to  
MDBA who have role in assessing  
estimates. Not specific to FPH, many

other statutory plans need to do as part of the Basin Plan requirements.

BDL numbers for Border Rivers has been released, Gwydir pending, and the remainder should be March.

██████ - Border Rivers stayed close to original – what happened to Gwydir?

██████ - Gwydir was using existing model, modified. Conversely Border Rivers was a new model.

██████ - Considerations such as overbank flow water breakouts and out of reach impacts were calculated and compared to the next flow gauge and as there was a difference, therefore the needed to be recalibrated as a process of improvement. Namoi is a new model.

Macquarie, Barwon Darling is a recalibrated model.

██████ - What are major influences to change?

██████ – Flow recalibration, split between in channel and overbank losses, tributary inflows and how losses are accessed by individuals. Observed river flows and evidence farm scale – model was not reflecting river flows.

██████ – what was process for accuracy and ungauged in flows?

██████ – modelled using rainfall runoff data. Individuals tributaries also added into model.

██████ - Flow gauges are well represented and developed hydrological data table for flow gauge stations used. Compared against other lines of evidence.

██████ noted that landholders do not have benefit access the detailed information for modelling.

██████ - Letters explain pre and post modelling. ██████████ will be available to answer specific individual landholder

██████████ to provide further information to committee as he investigated as part of review.

Actioned emails sent to committee 2 Feb 2021

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<p>question, in addition the model build reports will be publicly available.</p> <p>██████ – We would like to see the river gauges individually checked.</p> <p>██████ – Hydrometric services within Water NSW – needs continuation of funding.</p> <p>Committee requested a Water NSW status report on accuracy of gauges, funding, when was last rating, what was the rating.</p> <p>Note: Hydrometric and remote sensing is funded by IPART.</p> <p>Thanks to ██████</p> <p>1pm lunch break</p>	<p>DPIE to request report from Water NSW.</p>	<p>██████████</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>1.35pm Meeting resumed.</p> <p>██████████ updated committee on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macquarie (27 submissions) and Barwon Darling (4-6) modelling.</li> <li>• Barwon Darling flow threshold values queried and whether there was a systematic problem in model.</li> <li>• Checked all of Macquarie all individual submissions and results checked, several inconsistencies identified, and further information requested and received from Modeller. Changes occurred including how properties access flood runners. Farm Scale runoff checked etc.</li> <li>• Satisfied that changes in modelling post submissions are sound.</li> <li>• Gwydir model report – ██████████ has not finished final check.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on rainfall gauges – the gauges used in model will be checked by ██████████ for suitability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ██████████ – Previously there were two modelling papers – one was a systematic look at weather stations. Report will be recirculated to committee.</li> <li>• Old model used ‘reach scale properties’ where 20 properties were tagged to a particular weather station and modelled together as a single entity. The new model is finer grained and looks at individual properties and allocates to an associated weather station. The change was insignificant.</li> </ul> <p>██████████ – What is the effect of variations of multiple properties?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ██████████ looks at individual property FPH modelling, not</li> </ul>	<p>Modelling – weather station report to be circulated to committee</p>	<p>DPIE - Water</p>
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impact on aggregation of properties.

- Regulated – individual properties modelled, unless managed as a conglomerate.

Discussion on Unregulated Volcon –

- Uses remote sensing at key years/ WMA revisions: 1993-1994, 1999-2000, 2008 and current – all data calibrated for development and assets, then scenario's run eg. climate data.
- [REDACTED] - The FPH Policy states that the original volumetric conversion process adopted shall be used in the current FPH modelling.
- [REDACTED] - Macquarie, Barwon Darling - will look at how model build occurred. Macquarie build report and submissions will be checked before letters being send out.
- [REDACTED] – If properties did not make submission, they may not have any change/benefit.
- [REDACTED] will check that equitable modelling will be applied across the whole valley.
- [REDACTED] queried about water calculations for above 2%, would they be aggregated with other water sources in model?
- [REDACTED] – no they are run separately in the water balance (Regulated). [REDACTED] is only reviewing Regulated modelling.
- Unreg does not use modelling, it is a calculation process (Volcon).
- Discussion on Harvestable Right, Rainfall runoff and FPH.
- [REDACTED] query - Are there any Unreg properties that we are considering that have harvestable rights attached to

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<p>the property that are associated with FPH?</p> <p>Discussion about Volcon process.</p> <p>Request by [REDACTED] for N261 Inspection report.</p>	<p>DPIE – Water to provide N261 Groundwater Inspection including works to take water during development period report and any water usage report to Committee.</p>	<p>DPIE - Water</p>
8	Unregulated Submissions – see below		
	<p>Afternoon Tea 3.30pm</p> <p>Resume 3.40pm</p>		
9	<p>Regulated Submissions – see below (returning).</p> <p>Note meeting minutes of 20 Jan to be amended and re-tabled at 11 February for endorsement by committee.</p>		
10	Other business	<p>Next meeting on line. At that meeting a decision will be made to decide if following meeting is face to face or on line.</p>	
	Meeting close 4.37pm		

## Submission Outcomes

	Submission number, property and issue	Recommendation to Committee	Committee Determination	Action
1	Endorsement of <b>Unregulated</b>	DPIE – W recommend Approval of the following submissions:	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Support conclusion based on allocation policy defined in</p>	

<p><b>Groundwater Submissions:</b></p>	<p>N027 [REDACTED]                  N034 [REDACTED]                  N049 [REDACTED]                  N002 [REDACTED]                  [REDACTED]                  N083 [REDACTED]                  N097 [REDACTED]                  N132 [REDACTED]                  N219 [REDACTED]                  N233 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>the Department summary included in individual submissions:</p> <p>N027 [REDACTED]                  N034 [REDACTED]                  N049 [REDACTED]                  N002 [REDACTED]                  [REDACTED]                  N083 [REDACTED]                  N097 [REDACTED]                  N132 [REDACTED]                  N219 [REDACTED]                  N233 [REDACTED]</p>	
<p><b>Chairperson revisited outstanding issues from previous meeting</b></p> <p><b>Regulated Submissions</b></p>			
<p><b>M113</b>                  [REDACTED]                  [REDACTED]</p>	<p>As to Committee Determination 20 Jan meeting.</p>		
<p><b>(Note. Separate N140 [REDACTED] from N056 and table to meeting 11 Feb)</b></p> <p><b>N056 [REDACTED]</b></p> <p>4. Requesting fields 4 and 6 as temporary storage.</p>	<p>NRAR</p> <p>Recommend:</p> <p>4.Fields 4 and 6 <u>supported</u> as temporary storage</p>	<p>Committee Determination:</p> <p>Request survey for pipe infrastructure, and top of bank</p>	

	<p>5. FPH 2 and FPH3 - Requesting change in pipe sizes</p>	<p>5.1 FPH 2 – change from gated 1050mm to gated 900mm.</p> <p>5.2a FPH 3 – change from gated 600mm to gated 525mm gated</p> <p>5.2b 3 x pipes change to 750mm for WSWA only. For transfer of water.</p>	<p>5.1 FPH 2 – change from gated 1050mm to gated 900mm.</p> <p>5.2a FPH 3 – change from gated 600mm to gated 525mm gated as eligible works on the northside of the floodplain</p> <p>5.2b Change 3 pipes located on southern side of floodway to 750mm for WSWA only.</p>	
	<p>6. FPH4 - requesting pipe change from 1 x 600mm gated pipe to 1 x 700mm gated pipe.</p>	<p>6. FPH4 - Support change pipe from 1 x 600mm gated pipe to 1 x 700mm gated pipe.</p>	<p>Recommend: endorsed 20/1/21</p> <p>FPH4 - Support change pipe from 1 x 600mm gated pipe to 1 x 700mm gated pipe.</p>	
	<p><b>N051</b> [REDACTED]</p> <p>1. Contesting storage OFS1 from 410ML to 590ML, an increase of 180ML.</p>	<p>1. Support the increase in storage capacity from 410ML to 590ML, an increase of 180ML with a 1m freeboard</p>	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>OFS1 - support an increase in storage capacity from 410ML to 590ML, an increase of 180ML with a 1m freeboard.</p>	
	<p>2. OFS2 - Requesting inclusion of historical storage that was present up to the year 2000 from 0 to 197ML, an increase of 197ML.</p>	<p>1. Support the increase in storage capacity from 410ML to 590ML, an increase of 180ML with a 1m freeboard.</p>	<p>Recommend: endorsed 20/1/21</p> <p>OFS1 - support an increase in storage capacity from 410ML to 590ML, an increase of 180ML with a 1m freeboard.</p>	

	3. Requesting amendment of flow rate for FPH 9 pump from 99 ML/day to 130 ML/day.	3. FPH9 - support the increase in pump capacity from 99ML/day to 130ML/day.	Recommend: FPH 9 - Request Stat Dec that pump was in place pre 2008.	
	4. FPH12-- requesting amendment of a 350mm axial pump from 0 to 35ML/day.	4 FPH12-support amendment of a 350mm axial pump om 0 to 35ML/day.	Recommend: endorsed 20/1 /21 FPH12 - support amendment of a 350mm axial pump from 0 to 35ML/day	

## Next meeting

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Microsoft Teams