# **Logan River Irrigation Forum**

## **Held: 7:00pm on 5 June 2017 at Beaudesert**

**Attendees:** 5 irrigation customers were in attendance

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome & Introduction**

Customers were reminded that the 2016-17 Logan River Water Supply Scheme Network Service Plan was available on Seqwater’s website and the 2017-18 plan would be available from 30 September 2017 (see <http://www.seqwater.com.au/water-supply/irrigation/logan-river-water-supply-scheme>).The Network Service Plans contain useful information regarding operating costs, renewals and water usage history for the scheme.

Customers without internet access who wish to receive a copy of the existing plan, and/or request the new plan when it is available, were asked to register their interest by phone (1800 077 005).

**Agenda Item 2 – Review of 2016-17 operations & operations outlook for 2017-18**

Seqwater introduced members of the operations team and gave an overview of the scheme operations. Customers were also reminded of their obligations under the supply contract and to phone any water orders through to the Maroon Dam office.

Seqwater also showed photographs of some of the damage that TC Debbie had caused at Bromelton Weir and Cedar Grove Weir.

**Agenda Item 3 – Review of 2016-17 renewals and renewals outlook for 2017-18**

Customers were advised that the rolling program of meter upgrades and replacements continued throughout 2016-17. Shading for the clarifier was installed at the Maroon Water Treatment Plant and treated water pump No. 2 was replaced. Safe access to the fishway entrance was installed at Cedar Grove Weir.

Another 10 new flow meters will be installed throughout the scheme in 2017-18. The reticulated pipework in the recreation area will also be replaced along with treated water pipe no. 2.

Seqwater showed photographs of some of the condition assessments that had been carried out during the year on various assets. Some of these do not require any further work at this point in time such as the rip-rap on the dam wall and the fishway trash screens, however the fencing around the spillway will need to be replaced and the cone valve assembly will need to be re-sealed in the near future.

Customers asked what the clarifier was and they were advised that this forms part of the water treatment plant at the dam. They then asked if irrigators paid for recreational facilities and were told that these costs had been included at the last price path at the direction of the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) however Seqwater has proposed to the QCA that these costs be excluded in the next price path.

**Agenda Item 4 – Announced Allocation 2017-18**

The formula for determining the announced allocation is defined in the Resource Operations Plan (ROP) and this was explained in more detail. Attendees were advised that as Maroon Dam was currently at 99%, the forecast announced allocation for the 2017-18 water year was 100%.

A question was raised in relation to the status of Bromelton Offstream Storage (BOS). Seqwater advised that the BOS was built as a drought response storage but is currently decommissioned as this is the cheapest state for it to be in, however it can be brought back on line at any time if required.

**Agenda Item 5 – Irrigation water price path going forward**

The current price path ends 30/06/2017 however as advised previously, the next price path has been deferred for two years to align the Seqwater & SunWater price paths and to allow SunWater to enter into arrangements regarding their distribution systems.

Seqwater advised that the government will issue a new pricing notice soon and it is expected that the current pricing will continue with increases of CPI for Part A and Part B. These increases are expected to continue each year until 30 June 2019 when the next 5 year price path will commence.

Seqwater advised that the current actual scheme expenditure is tracking well against the forecast expenditure used to determine the current price path. Whilst there is no official budget for the renewals, Seqwater explained that the price path includes an annuity component. The annuity is calculated by forecasting the projected scheme expenses for the next 20 years and then converting that figure to a flat cost per annum.

Seqwater explained that renewals planning is done far into the future and is based on the average life expectancy of an asset. Closer to the time, condition assessments are done to determine if the asset really needs to be replaced having regard to its age, how it is performing and whether any legislative changes require it to be replaced. Where possible, if the asset is in good condition its life is extended. Once we know the full 30 years renewals program, it will be shown to the forum to discuss.

A question was raised in relation to whether the Part A would still be charged during times of low announced allocation. Seqwater advised that the costs involved in maintaining the infrastructure are still incurred even if no water is delivered and therefore the fixed Part A charges continue to apply during times of low or no announced allocation. Seqwater can offer payment plans to those customers experiencing financial difficulty. Where a region is drought declared, drought assistance packages may be available to eligible allocation holders through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Agenda Item 6 – Water trading**

There were no questions in relation to water trading.

**Agenda Item 7 - Future consultations, other matters**

Customers can find more information about the scheme on the Seqwater website under Everyday Water/Irrigation Schemes/Logan River Water Supply Scheme.

Seqwater will continue to hold forums every 12 months unless they are needed more frequently.

**Agenda Item 8 – Meeting close**

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was closed.