

Lower Lockyer Irrigation Forum

Held: 7:00pm on 5 May 2015 at Lowood

Attendees: 24 irrigation customers were in attendance

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Introduction

The forum was told that Seqwater proposed to continue with irrigator forums open to all customers of the Scheme unless customers requested an alternative arrangement. Seqwater advised that consultation forums would continue to be held at least annually. Additional forums may be held subject to customer or Seqwater demand. Seqwater further proposed that it would meet with any customer working groups formed to address specific issues. Customers were advised to signal the need for convening a forum by placing requests by email or phone.

Customers were advised that the 2014 network service plan was available on the Lower Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme page on Seqwater's website and the 2015 plan would be available from 30 September 2015. Customers without internet access and wishing to receive a copy of the existing plan and to be sent the new plan were asked to register their interest.

Agenda Item 2 – Renewals program

Seqwater reported on the current year renewals program and outlined the renewals works expected to be undertaken in 2015-16.

Agenda Item 3 – Future renewals plan

Seqwater advised that the replacement of protection works at Brightview Weir forecast for 2022-23, was not expected to proceed as recent works to repair flood damage to the weir had included replacement of much of the protection works.

Agenda Item 4 – 2015-16 announced allocation

The process for determining the announced allocation was presented and explained. Attendees were advised that the forecast announced allocation was likely to be 25% to 30%.

Agenda Item 5 – Operations

The forum was opened for questions and answers.

Customers asked about ways of increasing the flow of water into Atkinson Dam to make it more reliable. Suggestions included increasing the flow capacity of the Buaraba diversion channel and increasing the inflow from Seven Mile Lagoon. A suggestion was made to run a pipeline from the Coominya pipeline into Atkinson Dam to take flood water from Wivenhoe Dam. Seqwater undertook to look at the proposals.

A customer suggested that Seqwater send alerts to irrigators when blue-green algae levels cause Atkinson Dam to be closed to recreation users.

Agenda Item 6 – Water supply contract

Seqwater explained that the *Water Act 2000* requires that holders of a water allocation within Seqwater's water supply schemes must enter into a water supply contract with Seqwater. Where no water supply contract existed, a standard supply contract is deemed to be in place.

Seqwater advised that when water allocations are sold, the purchaser is required to execute a Seqwater supply contract before the transfer of the water allocation can be finalized.

[Note: A copy of the deemed water supply contract for the Lower Lockyer Valley WSS is now available on Seqwater's website.]

Agenda Item 7 – Scheme rules

Seqwater advised attendees that the water supply contracts variously refer to a "system for the ordering of water" or "ROL holder rules" both of which envisage documenting and publishing the operating rules for the scheme. Attendees were told that such a document is being prepared and will be sent to all allocation holders in the near future.

Seqwater then presented and explained the major points. Discussion ensued about the process for ordering water and actions available to Seqwater in the event of non-compliance by an irrigator causing loss of supply to other irrigators. Seqwater stressed that the rules are intended to provide for equitable treatment for all customers. Customers requested the ability to place orders by text message and for the key phone numbers of Seqwater contacts to be added.

Seqwater emphasized the requirement for customers to ensure safe and convenient access to meter sites for Seqwater's representatives including keeping the site clear of vegetation growth.

Agenda Item 8 – Water trading

Water trading was addressed as part of the system for the ordering of water. Attendees were reminded that temporary transfers were required when water usage was likely to exceed the allocation. Temporary transfer forms were available from Seqwater.

Seqwater advised it has no role in facilitating permanent water trades which may be arranged personally or through a water broker.



Agenda Item 9 – Other matters

Attendees were shown how to find and access the Lower Lockyer Valley scheme web page on Seqwater's website.

Agenda Item 10 – Meeting close

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was closed.