

## Logan River Irrigation Forum

Held: 7:00pm on 18 May 2015 at Beaudesert

**Registered attendees:** 12 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 Logan River 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.

Attendees questioned the proposed expenditure on the Maroon Dam water treatment plant in 2015-16 and commented that irrigators should not have to bear costs related to the provision of recreation services. Seqwater confirmed that these costs had been included in the current price path by government direction.

### Agenda Item 3 – Future renewals plan

Seqwater presented future renewal projects above \$30,000 out to 2036-37. It was explained to the attendees how these projected costs impacted on the renewal annuity in the current price path and would impact the next price path.

Seqwater advised that the future program of works would be updated for presentation ahead of the next pricing review.

#### **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 expected to be 100%.

In response to a question raised, attendees were advised that when the storage level in Maroon Dam falls to 45% the announced allocation will automatically drop to 55%.

An attendee noted that the quality of the water in the river was poor and that some fish species did not seem to be as prevalent. Seqwater advised that the quality of the water released from Maroon Dam was typically of a higher quality than river water. This was generally due to the impacts of activities along the Logan River and its tributaries.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Operations**

The forum was opened for questions and answers.

In response to a question, Seqwater explained that the government's water prices comprise a two-part tariff where the fixed Part A charge is levied on the nominal allocation and is not linked to water usage. The volumetric Part B charge applies only when water is taken.

There was discussion on why flows from Christmas and Running Creeks are not treated as free flows in the Logan River. Seqwater explained that the flows from the creeks into the Logan River provide environmental flows and reduce the need to release water from Maroon Dam thereby conserving the storage.

There was discussion on the future of Bromelton Off-stream Storage. Seqwater explained the role of the storage as a drought response. Seqwater further advised that the storage was being run down slowly with releases used mainly to satisfy water orders. Seqwater noted that there was also a larger release related to fish studies.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Scheme rules**

Seqwater outlined the requirement for all allocation holders to enter into a water supply contract with Seqwater and then presented the main rules comprising the system for the ordering of water to which Seqwater's standard supply contract refers. Previous contracts referred to "ROL holder rules". 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. Attendees expressed concern that equipment failure might prevent the taking of ordered water. Seqwater urged attendees to always contact the dam operators and make them aware of any difficulties. Attendees were told that the availability of water from Maroon Dam could, without replenishment, be extended by 12 to 18 months with better management through water ordering.

Customers suggested Seqwater consider including an email address for placing orders.

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.

Seqwater advised customers that a document setting out the rules would be mailed out to all scheme customers and posted on the Logan River scheme page on Seqwater's website.

**Agenda Item 7 – Water trading**

As part of the system for ordering water discourse, Seqwater explained the difference between permanent and temporary trading. Customers were reminded that temporary trade forms are available from Seqwater or on the Logan River scheme page on Seqwater’s website. Seqwater advised that it has no role in the facilitation of permanent water trades.

**Agenda Item 8 – Other matters**

Seqwater confirmed that further forums would be on an “as needs” basis.

Attendees were shown how to find and access the Logan River scheme web page on Seqwater’s website.

**Agenda Item 9 – Meeting close**

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was closed.