

Central Brisbane River Irrigation Forum

Held: 7:00pm on 22 October 2014 at Fernvale

Attendees: 51

Seqwater attendees: Colin Nicolson; Jayam Tennakoon; Peter Pennell; Mike Foster; John West; Mark Tan

The meeting commenced at 7:05pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Introduction

The forum was told that under the *Rural Water Pricing Direction Notice (No 1) 2013* Seqwater is required to establish and support irrigation consultation. Seqwater proposed that the lowest cost option is to have consultation forums open to all customers of the Scheme. Seqwater advised that consultation forums would be held at least annually. Additional forums may be held subject to customer or Seqwater demand. Attendees proposed that demand for additional consultation sessions should be determined in consultation with the Mid Brisbane River Irrigators (MBRI) group. Seqwater agreed to consult with the MBRI.

Agenda Item 2 – Network Service Plan

The operating costs result for 2013-14 was discussed. Discussion centred on indirect costs. Seqwater advised that the higher than expected indirect cost allocation would be further investigated and reported back at a future time.

The operation of the Asset Restoration Reserve was outlined.

Attendees commented that it was difficult to place the costs, being total scheme costs, in perspective to understand the significance of the expenditure due to irrigation costs being a small share of total scheme costs. Seqwater acknowledged the difficulty and will look at alternative ways to present the costs.

Agenda Item 3 – Renewals program

Seqwater reported on the 2013-14 renewals program and discussed the projects comprising the 2014-15 renewals program. A question was raised about whether projects that primarily contribute to flood mitigation should be included. Seqwater undertook to investigate the extent to which the Queensland Competition Authority had excluded flood mitigation costs from the scheme cost base.

Seqwater explained the requirement to consult with irrigators in regard to undertaking high level or detailed options analyses for qualifying projects. Most attendees indicated that they did not understand the complexity of the issue and consequently no position was reached. Attendees requested that Seqwater take this matter up with the MBRI. Seqwater agreed to do so.

Agenda Item 4 – Water meter installations

The requirement for the installation of water meters was explained along with Seqwater’s view that high volume allocation holders and users will be the first to receive water meters. The cost of the first meter, per allocation, would be charged to the scheme’s Asset Restoration Reserve. Second and subsequent meters for each allocation would be paid for directly by the customer.

Seqwater agreed to consult further with the MBRI on this issue on behalf of irrigators.

Agenda Item 5 – Seqwater website

The attendees were briefly shown how to find, and navigate around, Seqwater’s web site and how to access the scheme web page. Attendees were invited to make suggestions for improvements via email at any time.

Agenda Item 6 – Service targets

Attendees were provided with a copy of the proposed service targets which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Future consultations

Seqwater advised that the next scheduled forum would be around May/June, 2015 but intermediate forums could be convened as required. Some attendees expressed the view that future forums should be more consultative. Seqwater will communicate with the MBRI regarding future meetings.

Agenda Item 8 – Meeting close

The meeting was closed at 8:45pm.