

Warrill Valley Irrigation Forum

Held: 7:00pm on 11 May 2015 at Harrisville

Attendees: 48 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 Warrill 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 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%.

Agenda Item 5 – Operations

The forum was opened for questions and answers.

A number of matters were discussed under this item including water ordering. Seqwater advised its intention to raise customer awareness levels concerning water ordering.

Agenda Item 6 – Water supply contract

Seqwater explained that the *Water Act 2000* requires that holders of a water allocation within a Seqwater water supply scheme 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 all future purchasers of a water allocation would be required to enter into a water supply agreement with Seqwater.

[Note: A copy of the deemed water supply contract for the Warrill 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 mean the documenting and publishing of the operating rules for the scheme. Attendees were told that 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. Attendees expressed concern that equipment failure might prevent the taking of ordered water. Seqwater urged attendees to always contact the dam operators so they are aware of any difficulties.

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.

Customers requested the ability to place orders by text message and for the key phone numbers of Seqwater contacts to be added.

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 or on the Warrill Valley scheme page on Seqwater's website. 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 Warrill Valley scheme web page on Seqwater's website.

Agenda Item 10 – Meeting close

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was formally closed.