



**PRIVATE DIVERTERS
CUSTOMER SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

Venue: LMW 14th Street Tower Room
Date: Tuesday 28th October 2008
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

1.0 APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE LMW

Owen Russell
Leesa Corless

General Manager – Customer Service
Customer Relations Officer

ATTENDANCE CSAC

Andrew Fremder
Keith Milne
Craig Thornton
Geoff Minter
Ian Keens
Andrew Young

2.0 WELCOME AND INDUCTION FOR NEW MEMBERS OWEN RUSSELL

Owen welcomed all members to the meeting and welcomed Ian Keens to the Private Diverters' CSAC. Ian has previously been a CSAC member.

Previous minutes were reviewed and accepted.

3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OWEN RUSSELL

Andrew Young Was nominated as Chair of the Committee and accepted this role.
Ian Keens nominated as Deputy Chair of the Committee and accepted this role.

Both the Chair and Deputy Chair will be invited to the next Board meeting in November.

4.0	FORECAST FOR THE SEASON	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>Owen Russell gave an overview of the season and forecasts that are expected.</p> <p>Currently sitting at 17% with the next allocation announcement expected next week. LMW expects to see the allocation rise over 20%, this means the Qualification of rights will end. Domestic and Stock; and House and Garden customers will need to watch their consumption to ensure they stay within their allocation.</p> <p>Owen also outlined the difference between NSW and Victoria allocation and why NSW are currently sitting at 95%. NSW holds significant less high security water entitlement than Victoria and NSW choose to fully allocate to their customers the high security water. Currently NSW customers holding low security entitlements are at 2% allocation.</p> <p>Water prices have dropped drastically compared to this time last year, with temporary water about \$400/ML at the moment. It is expected that we will mirror last year's allocation unless we see significant inflows into catchments. There has been a lot of interest in regard to buy back of water entitlements from the Federal Government. Temporary water transfers have dropped with majority of customers relying on carryover, but some big trades are expected to come through shortly.</p> <p>Allocation for the season is expected to be in the low 30's.</p> <p>Andrew Fremder questioned the underpinning that is happening in South Australia. This is where Government purchased water for customers.</p> <p>Keith Milne would like it noted that he is very disappointed in the Victorian Government (DSE) that the statement of Victoria's water is run better than NSW, which he believes is not correct. NSW has always had the ability to deliver high security water and it is showing how NSW is being run/mismanaged this season 08/09, with NSW currently at 95% for its high security water.</p>		
4.0	ALLOCATION / CARRY OVER	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>The Minister has indicated that Carryover will remain in place with some minor amendments to happen on an annual basis.</p>		

5.0	FMIT INTEGRATION	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>Owen Russell gave an overview on the integration of FMIT into LMW. Operations have been going very smoothly with little or no disruption to customers. The Minister will be appointing a new member to the Board and the Board will also be appointing a new committee for the FMID district. This will be by appointment not by election.</p> <p>The Ninth Street FMIT office was closed effective immediately from the Minister's direction on 18th August 2008. The majority of staff are now housed at LMW's Head Office at Fourteenth Street.</p> <p>The FMIT watering ordering system is now undergoing transition into the LMW water ordering system. This is expected to be a very streamlined and quick process, with no interruption to customers.</p> <p>The extensions for the office has now been approved and have commenced. This is partly to accommodate the extra staff now housed at the office since the FMIT integration.</p>		
6.0	NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>The Strategy was distributed to all Committee members for review. Comments can be made about the draft strategy, due by mid December. This date is currently under review to give customers a better opportunity to submit comments.</p> <p>A briefing will be held on Friday 31st October at DSE Irymple office from 12.45pm to 2.30pm. All Committee members are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided at 12noon prior to the briefing, all Committee members are invited to attend the lunch.</p> <p>Owen gave an overview on the options for the future such as allocation, climate change effects on irrigation and entitlements for the future. Owen encouraged all Committee members to attend the briefing and take the opportunity to voice concerns and issues etc.</p> <p>Andrew Fremder would like it noted that the notice given for the briefing scheduled this Friday was inadequate and would like to see a minimum of 2-3 weeks notice for a briefing. Considering LMW policy is a minimum of 14 days notice must be given to Committee members for scheduling a CSAC meeting, similar policy should be adopted for forums etc. It was acknowledged that this briefing was not arranged by LMW and the notices were passed on as soon as they were received here.</p> <p>Andrew Young suggested that LMW/DSE should conduct a public meeting to explain to the general public about the Strategy.</p> <p>Owen suggested that after the briefing on Friday that the Committee get together afterwards to ensure that all points are addressed and that they are taken seriously.</p>		

7.0	SUNRAYSIA MODERNISATION PLAN	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>Owen gave an overview of the Modernisation plan that is currently in planning. Ron Leamon attended a meeting recently about criteria for funding. All districts will be including in the planning and Engineers' recommendations etc. Owen expects that the \$103 million currently on offer will not be enough to cover all works required. A business case will then need to be put together to put forward for Federal funding. All planning and business cases will be discussed with CSAC committees during the planning processes. A system plan would have to be committed to in the next 12 to 18 months.</p> <p>For Red Cliffs and Merbein, LMW is looking at a new pump station and rising main as part of the plan. FMID is currently being reviewed and engineers are currently assessing feasibility for the plan.</p> <p>Owen outlined that it is LMW's intention to try to improve all districts but each district will be assessed on a case by case basis with funding allocated by "best bang for buck" philosophy.</p> <p>A meeting will be set up with each of the Committees to discuss the engineers' report and recommendations for each district.</p> <p>The Essential Services Commission has accepted LMW's preference to the RAB method.</p>		
8.0	NEW BUILDING EXTENSION	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>LMW Board recently approved the extension to the existing building. The extension is expected to take nine months and cost around \$3M. King Construction has been awarded the contract and has commenced works on the extension.</p>		
9.0	WATER TRADE	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>A Media Release was sent out by email to all Committee members about the Barmara Choke, temp trades are continuing to occur from above to below the choke. This is the same setup which occurred yesterday.</p>		
10.0	GENERAL BUSINESS	OWEN RUSSELL
<p>LMW is aiming to schedule a meeting with all CSAC Committees during the first week of December to discuss finance and annual report data. Exclude Friday 5th December for the next meeting.</p> <p>At this stage it will be a 2pm meeting to assist Andrew Fremder with travel arrangements.</p>		
<p>Meeting closed at 3.30pm</p>		