# **Cedar Pocket Irrigation Forum**

## **Held: 7:00pm on 20 June 2017 at Cedar Pocket**

**Attendees:** 5 irrigation customers were in attendance

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome & Introduction**

Customers were reminded that the 2016-17 Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme Network Service Plan was available on Seqwater’s website and the 2017-18 plan would be available from 30 September 2017 (see <http://www.seqwater.com.au/water-supply/irrigation/cedar-pocket-water-supply-scheme>). The Network Service Plans contain useful information regarding operating costs, renewals and water usage history for the scheme.

Customers without internet access who wish to receive a copy of the existing plan, and/or request the new plan when it is available, were asked to register their interest by phone (1800 077 005).

**Agenda Item 2 – Review of 2016-17 operations & operations outlook for 2017-18**

Seqwater introduced members of the operations team and gave an overview of the scheme operations and performance. Graphs comparing the rainfall and inflows into Cedar Pocket Dam with the releases made from the dam were also shown. These graphs indicate that whilst the storage fills quickly it also empties quickly.

**Agenda Item 3 – Review of 2016-17 renewals and renewals outlook for 2017-18**

Customers were advised that electrical safety switch compliance testing at Cedar Pocket Dam was carried out in 2016-17. There are no renewals works scheduled for 2017-18.

**Agenda Item 4 – Announced Allocation 2017-18**

The formula for determining the announced allocation is defined in the Resource Operations Plan (ROP) and this was explained in more detail. Irrigators were advised that once the storage drops below 100%, this starts to have an impact on the announced allocation as the total storage capacity is 735ML and the total volume of medium priority allocations is 495ML. Cedar Pocket Dam is forecast to be 95% full at the start of the water year and therefore the announced allocation is forecast to be around 95% assuming no inflows.

Seqwater advised that if the announced allocation is less than 100%, it will be reviewed each month to determine if it can be increased.

Seqwater advised that irrigators have access to the dam levels which are listed on the website: <http://www.seqwater.com.au/water-supply/dam-levels>

Seqwater also clarified the situation regarding the reset of the announced allocation. Irrigators were advised that any usage prior to the spill will be reset up to a maximum of 200%. Several examples were given:

Example 1 – Allocation of 50ML 50 ML

Usage before spill 20 ML

Amount available to end of water year 50 ML

If there is a second overflow in the same year, the amount available to use would be:

 Allocation of 50ML 50 ML

Usage before 1st spill 20 ML

Usage before 2nd spill 30 ML

Amount available to end of water year 50 ML

In this example, the maximum volume that can be used in any year, regardless of the number of resets is 100ML (i.e. 200% x 50ML)

Example 2 – Allocation of 50ML 50 ML

 Usage before spill 60 ML

 Amount available to end of water year 40 ML

In this example, the maximum volume that can be used in any year, regardless of the number of resets is 100ML (i.e. 200% x 50ML)

Example 3 – Allocation of 50ML 50 ML

 Temporary Transfer IN (50 ML) 50 ML

 Usage before spill 60 ML

 Amount available to end of water year 140 ML

In this example, the maximum volume that can be used in any year, regardless of the number of resets is 200 ML (i.e. 200% x (50 ML + 50 ML)). Note – the person who temporary transfers water IN to their account obtains the benefit of the reset.

**Agenda Item 5 – Irrigation water price path going forward**

The current price path ends 30-06-2017 however as advised previously, the next price path has been deferred for two years to align the Seqwater and SunWater price paths and to allow SunWater to finalise local management arrangements for their distribution systems.

Seqwater advised that the government has issued a new pricing direction notice. As expected, the current pricing will continue with increases of $2 plus CPI for Part A and CPI only for Part B for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 water years.

Seqwater advised that the current actual scheme expenditure is tracking well against the forecast expenditure used to determine the current price path. Whilst there is no official budget for the renewals, Seqwater explained that the price path includes an annuity component. The annuity is calculated by forecasting the projected scheme expenses for the next 20 years and then converting that figure to a flat cost per annum.

Seqwater explained that renewals planning is done far into the future and is based on the average life expectancy of an asset. Closer to the time, condition assessments are done to determine if the asset really needs to be replaced having regard to its age, how it is performing and whether any legislative changes require it to be replaced. Where possible, if the asset is in good condition its life is extended. Once we know the full 30 years renewals program, it will be shown to the forum to discuss.

**Agenda Item 6 – Water trading**

There were no questions in relation to water trading.

**Agenda Item 7 - Future consultations, other matters**

Customers can find more information about the scheme on the Seqwater website under Everyday Water/Irrigation Schemes/Cedar Pocket Dam Water Supply Scheme.

Seqwater will continue to hold forums every 12 months unless they are needed more frequently. On discussion, irrigators advised that a lunch time forum would be preferable to a night time forum and Seqwater undertook to try to arrange a lunch time forum next time.

Irrigators suggested that Seqwater add a link on the website from the irrigation pages to the dam levels page. Seqwater undertook to do this and welcomed further suggestions from irrigators which can be forwarded to irrigators@seqwater.com.au

**Agenda Item 8 – Meeting close**

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was closed.