# **Warrill Valley Irrigation Forum**

## **Held: 7:00pm on 10 April 2017 at Harrisville**

**Attendees:** 26 irrigation customers were in attendance

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome & Introduction**

Customers were reminded that the 2016-17 Warrill Valley 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/warrill-valley-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 gave an overview of the scheme, showing maps of the different zones and reminding customers to ensure their works are approved, positioned in such a way that it is safe for staff to access and that they do not take more water than is available in their water account. Customers were also reminded that a system for water ordering is in place in the Warrill scheme and all irrigators are required to place an order with the dam operators prior to taking any water.

The forum was advised that in 2016-17, the cracks in the concrete at Kents Lagoon had been repaired and photographs of the repair work were shown. They were also advised that 22 flow meters had been replaced during the year.

In 2017-18, a condition assessment of the low flow pump at Moogerah Dam will be carried out. Works to replace the reticulated pipework around the recreation area will also be carried out and work will also be carried out to the isolation pump to ensure it is in good working order.

A condition assessment of the valves at Aratula Weir and Railway Weir is being carried out as these are now quite old and there are safety issues with staff having to walk out to the middle of the weir to open and close them. The use of hydraulic actuators to activate the valves from the embankment will be investigated.

Minor works include replacement of the scour valve at Upper Warrill Creek Diversion Weir, re-establishment of the eroded bank at Waroolaba Creek Diversion Weir and small adjustments to correct the alignment of Normanby Gully Diversion Weir and Kents Lagoon Diversion Channel will be carried out as needed.

A customer advised that there was erosion where the old pump shed had fallen into the creek at the top end of Kents Lagoon and the question arose as to whether Seqwater or Council were responsible for the remedial works. Seqwater advised that if customers become aware of these types of problems, they should contact Seqwater who will investigate and liaise with Council if required.

**Agenda Item 3 – 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. Attendees were advised that prior to the recent rain event, Moogerah Dam was at 85% however it is now 100%. The forecast announced allocation for the start of the new water year on 1 July was therefore likely to be 100%.

**Agenda Item 4 – Water Supply Outlook**

Seqwater addressed the meeting regarding water security in the Warrill scheme and provided background information regarding the 7,000ML that had previously been allocated to Swanbank Power Station. Seqwater advised that 3,500ML had been returned to the dam with the intention that this would increase water security and the remaining 3500ML had been allocated to high priority for the water security program. In order to demonstrate the benefit of having the extra 3,500ML of medium priority water in the dam, Seqwater showed the results of the modelling that had been done using data collected between 1890 and 2010. Although the modelling was based on the current announced allocation rules and current usage patterns, it showed that if the 3,500ML of medium priority water had been left in the dam between 1890 and 2010, the lowest level that Moogerah Dam would have reached was 22%, thus highlighting the reliability of the scheme.

**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 following finalisation of local management arrangements for SunWater’s channel schemes.

Seqwater advised that the government will issue a new pricing notice before 30 June and it is expected that the current pricing will continue with increases of CPI for both Part A and Part B each year until 30 June 2019.

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 30 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 performed to determine whether work needs to be carried out having regard to each asset’s age and performance and whether any legislative changes require work to be carried out. Where possible, if the asset is in good condition its life is extended. It is Seqwater’s intention to consult with irrigators on the 30 years renewals program in the lead up to the next pricing review.

**Agenda Item 6 – Future consultations, other matters**

There was some discussion regarding permanent water trading, with irrigators querying whether any trades had taken place in the scheme. Seqwater advised that information regarding the number of water trades is published on the Department of Natural Resources & Mines website. See: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/water-markets/allocation>.

A customer asked if Seqwater had ever considered keeping one meter of freeboard available in the dam for flood mitigation purposes. Seqwater advised that the modelling could be done to see what sort of impact this would have and how much it would impact water security.

Seqwater reminded customers again to order water as this makes it fairer for everyone concerned, particularly for those down the end of the scheme who sometimes have trouble accessing water that they have ordered because upstream users are taking water without ordering it first. Customers were also asked to advise the dam operators when they have finished taking water. Lastly, customers were asked to be respectful and refrain from being abusive towards staff who were doing the best they could.

Customers can find more information about the scheme on the Seqwater website by clicking on “Everyday water” then “Irrigation schemes” to be taken to the Irrigation page. On the Irrigation page, click on the link titled “Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme” to be taken to the Scheme’s page.

Seqwater will continue to hold forums every 12 months unless they are needed more frequently.

**Agenda Item 7 – Meeting close**

With all agenda items completed, the meeting was closed.