



## RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)

Meeting held by Video Conference  
Friday 21 July 2023 commencing at 10:03 am

# Minutes

## 1 OPENING & WELCOME

The President and Chair of the meeting, Cr T Sachse, welcomed delegates and representatives and declared the meeting open.

## 2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

### 2.1 Attendance

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Cr Tony Sachse      | Shire of Mount Marshall (President)             |
| Cr Ross Chappell    | Shire of Lake Grace (Deputy President)          |
| Cr Len Armstrong    | Shire of Lake Grace                             |
| Cr Eileen O'Connell | Shire of Nungarin                               |
| Ms Sarah Caporn     | Shire of Quairading                             |
| Cr Rosemary Madacsi | Shire of Toodyay                                |
| Mr Hugo de Vos      | Shire of Toodyay (from 10:10 am)                |
| Cr Pauline Bantock  | Shire of Victoria Plains                        |
| Cr Gary O'Brien     | Shire of Victoria Plains                        |
| Cr Mark Crees       | Shire of Westonia                               |
| Cr Ross Della Bosca | Shire of Westonia                               |
| Cr Denese Smythe    | Shire of York                                   |
| Mr Linton Mellor    | Shire of York (from 10:50 am)                   |
| Ms Renae Thorpe     | Department of Water & Environmental Regulation) |
| Ms Rebecca Bowler   | Water Corporation                               |
| Mr Robert Lawry     | Bureau of Meteorology                           |
| Mr Vjekoslav Matic  | Bureau of Meteorology                           |
| Karla Senathirajah  | Bureau of Meteorology                           |
| Robert Dew          | Executive Officer                               |

### 2.2 Apologies

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cr Mark Campbell        | Shire of Chittering            |
| Ms Natasha Kaweme       | Shire of Chittering            |
| Cr Alison Harris        | Shire of Cunderdin             |
| Cr Frank Johnson        | Shire of Gingin                |
| Cr Julie Flockart       | Shire of Merredin              |
| Cr Tanya Gibson         | Shire of Mount Marshall        |
| Cr Gary Coumbe          | Shire of Nungarin              |
| Mr Sean Fletcher        | Shire of Victoria Plains       |
| Mr Lawrie Short         |                                |
| Mr Norm Smith           |                                |
| Ms Mia Davies MLA       | Member for Central Wheatbelt   |
| Hon Martin Aldridge MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Colin de Grussa MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Shelley Payne MLC   | Member for Agricultural Region |

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President commented that he was very happy that the Minister for Water had confirmed that she would be able to attend the October 2023 meeting.

Mr Hugo de Vos entered the meeting at 10:10 am.

### 5 GUEST SPEAKERS / PRESENTATIONS

#### 5.1 Climate Change

Robert Lawry, WA Senior Hydrologist, Bureau of Meteorology (Perth), and Vjekoslav Matric, Customer Lead, Water Sector, Bureau of Meteorology (Melbourne) - Presented on predictions and trends of climate change and in particular the effects for the agricultural region on changing weather patterns.

Cr T Sachse referred to the accuracy of modelling for seasonal outlook forecasts and asked if this will improve in the future. Mr Lawry replied that accuracy would improve but weather drivers in WA were not the same as for the East coast - in WA we have the Indian Ocean dipole and others factors which make it challenging.

Mr Lindon Mellor entered the meeting at 10:50 am.

Cr R Madacsi asked if there was information available to advise how to reduce evapotranspiration on a broadscale (eg broadacre farming). Mr Lawry replied that he would take the question on notice. Mr Matic commented that agricultural climate outlooks helped decision makers know what is available and how to interpret this information.

The President thanked the representatives from the Bureau of Meteorology for their presentation. Mr Lawry responded and indicated that the Bureau would be happy to do a follow up presentation prior to this year's bushfire season with regard to the outlook for summer.

Mr R Lawry, Mr V Matric and Ms K Senathirajah left the meeting at 10:59 am.

### 6 MINUTES

#### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held by video conference on 11 April 2023 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members and delegates.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the meeting held 11 April 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

#### RESOLUTION

**Ross Della Bosca moved and Denese Smythe seconded –**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held 11 April 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.**

**CARRIED**

## **6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **(a) Meeting with Minister for Water (Item 5.2(b))**

The Office of the Minister for Water has confirmed that Minister McGurk will be able to attend the Rural Water Council's meeting in October 2023. They advised that if it is possible 4 or 5 October (Wednesday or Thursday) would be more suitable for Minister McGurk as Friday's are not preferable, and the week starting 9 October is a sitting week. If 4 or 5 October are unsuitable, they can arrange for the Minister to attend on 13 October.

The Executive Committee considered the dates at its meeting on 29 June 2023 and recommended that the Minister's Office be advised that our preference is for the Minister to attend on 13 October. The Committee noted that the President is not available on 4 or 5 October.

Consideration will need to be given to issues to be discussed with the Minister. Normal practice is that these will be provided to the Minister's Office prior to meeting with the Minister. It is recommended that members be requested to provide details of matters they wish to discuss.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members be requested to provide matters that they wish to discuss with the Minister for Water.

**The meeting confirmed that the October 2023 meeting start at 10:00 am with morning tea from 9:30 am and requested that members be asked to provide matters that they wish to discuss with the Minister for Water.**

### **(b) WaterSmart Farms (Item 5.2(b))**

Last meeting requested that Dr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, be invited to the meeting with the Minister for Water to give an update on the WaterSmart Farms project including Smart Farms and other groundwater initiatives. Dr George's availability is being followed up.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For noting

**NOTED**

*Secretarial Note: After the meeting Dr George advised that unfortunately he would be on leave and would be unable to attend the October 2023 meeting. He advised that he had spoken to Mr Anthony Bodycoat, Water Corporation and Mr Nik Callow UWA to provide information on the project's behalf, that he would be happy to brief the Minister or the Rural Water Council at a future meeting and that the WaterSmart Farms project will be 90% completed by the end of this summer. He referred to an online presentation he and Mr Bodycoat had given to Engineers Australia in July 2023 <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/watersmart-farms>*

Cr Pauline Bantock left the meeting at 11:05 am.

### **(c) Invitation to Bureau of Meteorology (Item 5.2(c))**

Representatives from the Bureau of Meteorology met with the President and the Executive Officer to discuss their presentation to this meeting. As part of the discussion the Bureau representatives indicated that they would be pleased to give a follow up presentation, perhaps prior to the bushfire season.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For consideration

### **RESOLUTION**

**Denese Smythe moved and Rosemary Madacsi seconded –**

**That representatives of the Bureau of Meteorology be invited to give a follow up presentation to the October 2023 meeting.**

**CARRIED**

(d) AA Dams

Cr R Della Bosca enquired as to the availability of the list of AA Dams. Ms R Bowler advised that the Water Corporation was not in a position to circulate the entire list but was happy to provide a list of AA Dams per local government on request.

Cr M Crees advised that the Shire of Westonia had received information on the AA Dams in the Shire.

## 7 REPORTS

### 7.1 Water Corporation Report

Presentation of the Water Corporation's report and update on transfer of AA Dams to local governments, native title heritage considerations and likely joint ownership arrangements with traditional owners.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Water Corporation's report be received.**

Ms R Bowler presented the Water Corporations report (attached) and commented –

- When considering the transfer of AA Dams to local governments, need to be kept in mind the role of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the custodians and owners of aboriginal heritage and the South West Native Title Settlement.
- The Water Corporation facilitates discussions and effects the transfer of Crown Reserves (eg AA Dams) no longer required.
- The Noongar Boodja Trust must meet in regard to any lands they hold or manage; these are treated as any normal land.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has the final say but the Water Corporation is involved through the whole process.
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is separate from the South West Native Title Settlement.
- AA Dams are treated on an individual case basis and this is why the Water Corporation is reluctant to release the full list of AA Dams.
- On the availability of Heritage/Native Title mapping and urged local governments to access.
- Will pass on information on the impacts of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act as they become available.
- A high-level scan of assets has been carried out and do not see a huge impact on land transfer matters with respect to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

Cr R Della Bosca asked if all local governments had been notified of the availability of AA Dams which could be transferred to local governments. Ms R Bowler replied that she believed local governments were advised about two years ago, however the list of AA Dams available is evolving and she would enquire when local governments were last advised. The list of dams not released are ones still held by the Water Corporation or others.

Ms R Thorpe commented –

- All local governments should have a list of emergency water supplies as part of the old Emergency Response Plans. These Plans are currently being updated.
- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is trying to retain as many of the dams that it holds as possible and consider them as community assets.
- Those AA Dams with no assets offered up first.

Cr T Sachse asked as to the status of AA Dams where transfer had not yet completed. Ms R Bowler replied that she believed two are currently being worked through with one of these being impacted by the South West Native Title Settlement; transfer of AA Dams outside of the South West Native Title Settlement should be quicker and she was not aware of any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage impact on AA Dams on the current list.

Ms R Bowler advised that if local governments required more information on AA Dam transfers, they should contact Mr Doug Morgan from the Water Corporations, Property Portfolio Team.

#### RESOLUTION

**By Consensus –**

**That the Water Corporation's report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **7.2 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report**

Presentation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report be received.

Ms R Thorpe presented the Rural Water Planning report (attached) and highlighted that following –

- The seasonal outlook for the period August to October is for below normal rainfall.
- Currently works on dams cannot be undertaken as dams are full.
- Rural Water Planning works.
- AA Dams /Strategic Dams
- Community Water Supplies Partnership program.

Ms Sarah Caporn commented that she understood from Industrial Automation Group that their standpipe controllers had a fire brigade bypass mode (remotely enabled) which enabled firefighters access without the need of a swipe card.

### **RESOLUTION**

**By Consensus –**

**That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **7.3 Region Reports**

Presentation by delegates of region reports.

Dandaragan & North Miling (Lawrie Short)

This year did not look as though we were going to have a good growing season, with relatively low summer rainfall figures. Fortunately, June figures have improved the situation with some 97.5 mm for the month, this gives us a total of 183.5 mm up to 27 June.

Contrary to the rainfall figures most dams are nearly full with superficial waters keeping up to the extent that the two springs on our place have produced continuous creek flows for all of the year.

Whilst crops have all made good progress so far in Dandaragan, North Miling with somewhat less rain, is a bit behind with some resowing patches.

With stock prices down about 20% across the board, there is undoubted stress across all rural areas, probably emphasised by the stress of likely loss of the live sheep export market, though this has not at this stage led to a decrease in rural property valuations. Currently Dandaragan farmland is attracting up to \$5,000 per acre with smaller 100 acre lifestyle lots being valued as high as \$7,500 per acre. North Miling is currently attracting \$2,500 per arable acre. Expensive business this farming gig, we must enjoy the lifestyle!

Another emerging issue is the proliferation of Mining Exploration Permits in the Wheatbelt and the resultant mineral claims. Unfortunately, this results in impinging on our valued ground water supplies and in particular mining sites that have their own bore fields for dewatering the mineralised zones. The elephant in the room is those who seek to establish the bore fields some 50-60 km away from their centre of operations. This issue is fraught with disastrous consequences should they be allowed to reduce aquifers to levels prior to rural land clearing. (see Item 9.2)

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

Rainfall 2023 –

January – 5 mm    February – 0    March – 15 mm    April – 53 mm    May - 2.5 mm  
June – 64 mm (38 mm fell on 30 May but the official recording is in June)  
July – 6 mm so far.

Recordings varied throughout the Shire with 38 mm in Lake Grace 10-15 km East of Lake Grace 51 to 71 mm right out to Varley one farmer recording 5 mm.

We have had 2 heavy frosts: Saturday 15 (-2°) Sunday 16 (-1°)

At the end of the of March with only 60 to 70 days after finishing harvest some farmers started seeding Canola; very short turn around. The all croppers seem to start and keep going until they finish but some with sheep didn't really start until the rain at the end of May, so seeding was spread out. Canola started flowering quite early, there are patches that didn't come up due to the dryness in May and there some water logging and chemical damage with cereal crops.

Reports on lambing percentages seem to be excellent just a pity about prices. We had a good turn out to the Live Export Forum in Lake Grace.

#### Shire

It has been good conditions for getting maintenance grading done, other projects are being completed especially the new football and hockey lights in Lake Grace and hockey lights in Newdegate.

We have had 4 budget workshops and all going well will adopting the budget at the July meeting with a 3 percent increase this year.

#### Mount Marshall (Tony Sachse)

Autumn and winter rainfalls to date have been very patchy with very low decile recordings in the North of the Shire. Recordings further South are still below average. The Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development Soil Water – Generic Wheat Crop moisture levels grading throughout the Shire from 5 – 30 mm as at 29 June 2023. Average to above average rainfall for the remainder of the growing season will need to occur for growers to be close to average yields.

There have been no reports of extended outages of water supply from the Water Corporation. As mentioned in the last Mt Marshall Rural Water Council April 2023 report the handover of Water Corporation AA tanks to the Shire continues to be delayed due to native title. It now appears that any handover could mean joint ownership. If this is the case then Council will need to reconsider their decision to take ownership given this new information. Planning and financial considerations for ongoing maintenance and improvements for the catchments, tanks, outlets and roof structures will be more complicated with joint ownership. While the tanks currently provide non-potable water and other benefits, Council will need to carefully consider the risks involved with any decision to progress with a joint ownership arrangement.

Although the Shire of Mt Marshall has not applied for recent rounds, continued funding under the State Government's Community Water Supplies Partnership Program for innovative water security projects in the Wheatbelt is supported.

#### Toodyay (Rosemary Madacsi)

Rainfall has been below average during April through to July and within the 5 decile. April realised 23.1 mm and May and June delivered heavier falls of 54.5 mm and 77.6 mm respectively, in time for seeding. Frosts have featured across the Shire but have not had a significant impact on emerging grain crops. Overall soil moisture for this time of year is a little below average but ideal for seeding without the usual waterlogging. Low levels of runoff have left dams with average to below average levels.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index was 85 mm in April, but recent rains saw 60 mm for the first week of June. It is concerning that despite 81.8 mm of rain during July to date, soil moisture is still drying with the KBDI at 65 mm (required to saturate the soil profile) by 17 July.

Toodyay was notified in May, the Bureau of Meteorology had received Federal funding to address critical, long-standing risks in Australia's flood warning network in the nation's most flood-prone regions. BOM declared Toodyay a high-risk area and will acquire, upgrade and integrate key local government rain and water level gauges into its existing flood warning network. Once complete, the work will improve community access to rain and water level observations and enhance provision of flood forecasts and warnings.

#### Westonia (Ross Della Bosca)

Rainfall through the Shire of Westonia is a bit of a mixed bag. North of the Shire is very dry, whilst the middle has had decent falls and moving towards the South back to a dry zone. Falls so far have been light, just enough to keep things ticking along, but has been extremely cold with a number of severe frosts. Everything is very slow.

Dams are quite low with very little runoff. We will need a big rainfall event to fill dams otherwise we'll be in a bit of pain with regards to stock water. With the bans on live sheep export and the proposed AHC laws coming into place, we are heading into some very different times.

**Rainfall**

January – 10.5 mm February – 0 March – 36.5 mm April – 6.5 mm May – 4 mm June – 46 mm  
July – 15 mm Year to Date – 118 mm.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Region Reports be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**By Consensus –**

**That Region Reports be received.**

**CARRIED**

Ms Rebecca Bowler left the meeting at 11:45 am.

**7.4 Members of Parliament**

No Members of Parliament were present.

**7.5 Other**

No other matters were brought forward.

|                  |
|------------------|
| <b>8 FINANCE</b> |
|------------------|

**8.1 Financial Reports**

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 (attached). The Group's current cash balance is \$5,187.02.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the financial report for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Rosemary Madacsi moved and Ross Chappell seconded –**

**That the financial report for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**8.2 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts are presented for payment –

| <u>Payee</u>               | <u>For</u>                                  | <u>Amount</u>            |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <u>Accounts to be Paid</u> |   |                          |
| R W & S Dew                | Secretarial Service April 2023 to July 2023 | 1,017.50                 |
|                            | TOTAL (including GST)                       | <u><u>\$1,017.50</u></u> |

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,017.50 be passed for payment.

**RESOLUTION**

**Rosemary Madacsi moved and Ross Chappell seconded –**

**That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,017.50 be passed for payment**

**CARRIED**

## **9 BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Western Wheatbelt**

Discussion on water issues specific to the Western Wheatbelt (comprising, but not limited to, the Shires of Gingin, Dandaragan, Chittering, Toodyay) including water allocations and usage. **NOTED**

### **9.2 Impact of Mining on Water Availability**

At the Executive Committee meeting on 29 June, Mr Lawrie Short raised concerns with regards to mining companies establishing bore fields some considerable distance from their mine site operations. In particular he drew attention to the proposal by Caravel Minerals to establish a bore field at Gillingarra and pipe the water some 60 km East to their mine site at Wongan Hills.

The Executive Committee requested that this matter be listed for discussion at this meeting.

Delegates may care to review the information paper "Water: A Brief Look at Mining and Other Players" prepared by Cr Madacsi and presented to the October 2022 meeting (Item 9.4) and her concerns that mining activity in the Wheatbelt may have an impact on the availability of community water supplies.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For Discussion

**NOTED**

### **9.3 Water Resilience - Flood Mapping & Risk Management**

Cr R Madacsi has drawn attention to discussion at this year's National General Assembly of Local Government around resilience into the future and the critical need for local governments to start mapping high risk areas such flood prone areas. She points out that there is a need to ensure the continuity of water supplies and in particular where and how we manage local supplies.

She suggests identifying the need for flood mapping and to lobby for funding for this work. The outcome would be to identify flood prone areas, the water infrastructure that could be at risk (erosion of tanks and dams) and further catchment options into the future.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For Discussion

Cr R Madacsi commented that a better understanding of water flows is needed together with a better sense of current ground water sources; there is no sound understanding of what we have and what we are going to need going forward. Ms R Thorpe advised that she will follow up with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and get back out of session as to what information is available.

Ms S Caporn left the meeting at 11:54 am.

Cr R Della Bosca asked if the Water Corporation has mapping showing water sources. Ms R Thorpe replied that the Water Corporation and the Department were going through the AA Dam list and will check if Emergency Response Plans, which are some 10 years old, can be released.

Cr R Madacsi pointed out that the problem is that the information is scattered and needs to be brought together and a pathway established to where the information is available.

### **9.4 Water Legislation Reform**

The October 2022 meeting noted the information from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation regarding the status of the proposed changes to modernise the water resources management legislation and consolidate the six current Acts into one.

The October 2022 meeting also noted the advice from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and that the Minister for Water had directed that only high-level overarching comments be provided at this time and that further briefings not be given until the Water Reform Bill has been written. The Rural Water Council's interest in a briefing has been noted by the Department.



At the April 2023 meeting it was noted that the process for the reform of water legislation is underway and that it will be important for the Rural Water Council to be active in the consultation period for the new legislation.

**RECOMMENDATION**  
For Noting

**NOTED**

**10 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)**

No matters were brought forward.

Ms R Thorpe left the meeting at 11:59 am.

**11 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 13 October 2023
- Friday 15 March 2024 (AGM)
- Friday 5 July 2024

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, subject to the arrangements to meet with the Minister for Water, the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 13 October 2023 at the Water Corporation’s Depot in Cunderdin.

**RESOLUTION**

**Ross Chappell moved and Rosemary Madacsi seconded –**

**That, subject to the arrangements to meet with the Minister for Water, the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 13 October 2023 at the Water Corporation’s Depot in Cunderdin.**

**CARRIED**

The President drew attention to the 2023 Local Government elections scheduled for 21 October 2023 and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum and that if there is a conflict in the dates the Local Government elections will be postponed for up to 14 days.

**12 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair thanked delegates and presenters for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12:01 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on .....

Signed: .....  
*(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)*

REPORTS

WATER CORPORATION

# Agricultural Area Dams Program



| South West Native Title Settlement   | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021   | Water Corporation role   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>The most comprehensive native title agreement (created under the Native Title Act 1993) negotiated in Australian history. The Settlement between the Noongar people and the Western Australian (WA) Government covers approximately 200,000 square kilometres of the south-west region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term investment in Noongar people and shared success of WA 6 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs)</li> <li>- Commenced 25 February 2021</li> <li>- Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) established to manage and hold all assets from the settlement allocated to the Noongar Land Estate (NLE)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Came into effect 1 July 2023</li> <li>- The ACHA is more likely to impact MAINTENANCE and IMPROVEMENTS where there may be heritage considerations.</li> <li>- This is distinct from the SWNTS process which impacts CROWN LAND TRANSFERS.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide visibility to LGA's of dams no longer required for operational purposes.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Settlement package comprises land and funds.</li> <li>- 10-yr fund to support land, joint management and heritage objectives.</li> <li>- State Government to transfer to NLE: -up to 300,000 hectares of Crown land -up to 20,000 hectares of freehold land for <b>cultural or economic development</b> use.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Planning, Lands &amp; Heritage (DPLH) are the governing body</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate discussions and effect the transfer of Crown Reserves from the Water Corp to the Shire/LGA (via DPLH). The release of any land is always subject to Water Corp internal approval processes.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DPLH controls the settlement process and the allocation of Crown land.</li> <li>- Any surplus Crown land (including AA Dams) may become part of the settlement package.</li> <li>- Land transfers may result in shared vesting arrangements with TO's.</li> <li>- DPLH has the final say, although Water Corp remains involved in the process to ensure practical solutions are reached. Still an evolving area. No completed examples as yet.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ACHA should have minimal impact on land transfers. However, land with Aboriginal Heritage values is much more likely to become part of the settlement package.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feel free to contact Water Corporation's Property Portfolio Team (David Morgan – 9420 2640) for information on dams in your district.</li> </ul>  |

Heritage/Native Title Mapping:  
<https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=A>  
 CHIS

SWNTS: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement>

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

### Rural Water Planning Update

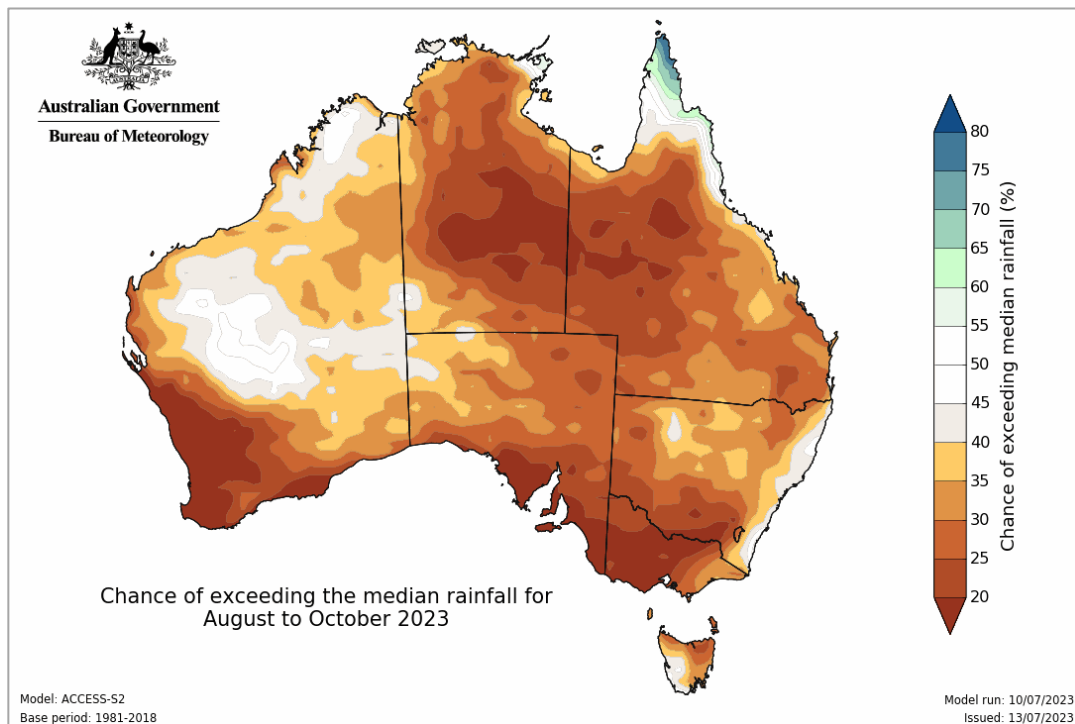
The Rural Water Planning program targets the state's dryland agricultural regions which receive less than 600 millimetres of annual rainfall. Those without access to a reticulated water service are given priority as these areas are the most vulnerable to serious water deficiencies.

### Outlook for August to October 2023 (provided by DPIRD)

BoM seasonal rainfall outlook for August to October 2023 is indicating below normal rainfall is more likely over most of WA. Past accuracy of BoM's model for southwest WA for this period is moderate (55 to 65A consistency). See the BoM's [seasonal outlook video](#) for more details.

BoM's seasonal outlook for September to November 2023 (issued 13 July) continues the drier outlook for most Australia. For both these periods, climate models are predicting stronger than normal atmospheric pressure in the Southern Ocean.

International climate models are showing below-normal rainfall outlooks for WA for August to October 2023, from their July runs. See Figure 6 for a multi-model summary from Copernicus.



### Rural Water Planning Works

The Rural Water Planning team undertakes works to provide strategic off-farm water supplies for general farm use in areas of the dryland agricultural region of the south-western Australia that receives less than 600 mm of annual rainfall.

The focus of the program of works is to maintain, develop and upgrade Strategic Community Water Supplies in areas with a history of water deficiency or where on-farm and non-potable community water supplies are unreliable and unable to meet the needs of local landholders or the community.

The joint partnership between the Commonwealth through National Water Grid funds and the State Government through Royalties for Regions has committed \$7.3 million dollars to upgrade and develop Agricultural dams and non-potable water supplies across the dryland agricultural area. The objective is to provide emergency water supplies for farmers and firefighting and build water security for rural communities and towns to combat climate change.

#### **AA Dams / Strategic Dams**

The Agricultural Area and Strategic Community Dams Project is located in the dryland agricultural area of the Southwest of Western Australia. 70 sites have been selected in priority rural areas covering 37 Regional Shires (this may change depending on access, permits and other requirements).

- Works tasks to the total of \$568 816 have been completed
- \$1 033 319 worth of works task either complete, started or scheduled (this is 28/70 sites, in 19 of the 37 LGAs)
- There have been some delays with procurement process, weather and not access / permits required.

#### **Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) Program**

The CWSP program provides regional communities in dryland agricultural areas with funding to improve their non-potable water supplies. A total of \$3.2 million has been committed over four years through a collaboration between the Commonwealth National Water Grid funds and Western Australian the State Governments through Royalties for Regions. This has recently been exhausted with 44 projects being approved in 29 LGAs. RWP have another \$million to allocate for CWSP until December 2023.

Up to \$100,000 can be provided for each off-farm community water supply project, developed by local government or community groups. Applicants must contribute 30 per cent of the total project value as a cash or in-kind contribution. Please contact Renae Thorpe [renae.thorpe@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:renae.thorpe@dwer.wa.gov.au) for further information.

#### **Strategic Community Water Supplies (SCWS) Reports (previously Emergency Response Plans)**

RWP are in the process of updating these reports to have available for the LGA involved and on the DWER website. The report provides information for the LGA and farmers on the location of SCWS and how to access non-potable water for emergency stock watering and firefighting purposes, including what facilities are available at each site.

Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2023**

|  | <u>Actual</u><br><u>For Year</u> | <u>Estimate</u><br><u>For Year</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                    |                                  |                                    |
| Membership   |                                  |                                    |
| Associations (16 @ \$300)                          | 0.00                             | 4,800                              |
| Individuals (3 @ \$150)                            | 0.00                             | 450                                |
| Interest Earned                                    | 0.00                             | 0                                  |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                              | <b>\$0.00</b>                    | <b>5,250</b>                       |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                                    |                                  |                                    |
| Meeting Expenses                                   | 0.00                             | 200                                |
| Secretarial Service                                | 1,063.41                         | 5,500                              |
| <b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>                              | <b>\$1,063.41</b>                | <b>5,700</b>                       |
| <b>CASH SUMMARY</b>                                |                                  |                                    |
| Opening Balance                                    | 6,250.43                         | 6,250                              |
| Plus Receipts                                      | 0.00                             | 5,250                              |
|  | 6,250.43                         | 11,500                             |
| Less Payments                                      | 1,063.41                         | 5,700                              |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                             | <b>\$5,187.02</b>                | <b>5,800</b>                       |
| <b>BANK RECONCILIATION</b>                         |                                  |                                    |
| Cheque Account Balance (as at 30/6/2023) (Westpac) | 5,187.02                         |                                    |
| Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement      | 0.00                             |                                    |
|  | 5,187.02                         |                                    |
| Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement     | 0.00                             |                                    |
| <b>Balance as per Cash Book</b>                    | <b>\$5,187.02</b>                |                                    |



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Robert Dew  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER