



RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)
Annual General Meeting held by Video Conference
Friday 18 March 2022 commencing at 9:05 am

Minutes

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Deputy President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Tony Sachse welcomed delegates and declared the meeting open.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall (Deputy President & Chair of Meeting)
Cr David Dewar	Shire of Chittering
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace
Mr Chris Pagent	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin
Cr Tanya Gibson	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Mark Crees	Shire of Westonia
Cr Suzanne Woods	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Ross Della Bosca	Shire of Westonia
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York
Ms Sinead McGuire	Shire of York
Mr Ed Fletcher	Gingin Water Group Inc
Ms Renee Manning	Wheatbelt Development Commission, Merredin
Ms Shannon Arnott	A/Region Manager, Water Corporation
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region (from 9:32 am)
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region (from 9:50 am)
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Cr Mark Campbell	Shire of Chittering
Mr Peter Clarke	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Rodney Sheen	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Len Armstrong	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Chris Bray	Shire of Narembreen
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Gary O'Brien	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Lawrie Short	
Mr Norm Smith	
Ms Tracy Calvert	Manager, Rural Water Planning, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt, Leader of the Opposition

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Tony Sachse announced that as Deputy President he would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of the President who was recovering from a recent medical procedure. He wished Mr Short well.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held at Northam on 15 October 2021 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members and delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 15 October 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Eileen O'Connell moved and Ross Chappell seconded –

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 15 October 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Expanding Stakeholder Base (Item 5.2(b))

The October meeting requested that invitations be sent to farm improvement groups within the region to attend this meeting as observers. Members were requested to advise the Executive Officer of any groups active within their area. To date no information has been received from members as to farm improvement groups active in the region. Last meeting requested that the CWA Head Office be contacted

RECOMMENDATION

To be followed up

Ms R Manning suggested that the Grower Group Alliance (Inc) be approached.

The meeting requested that Delegates advise the Executive Officer of any active farm improvements groups or similar within their districts.

(b) Minyulo Brook/Dandaraga Spring (Item 5.2(e))

Last meeting noted the enquiry concerning works using superficial waters in the Minyulo Brook/Dandaraga Spring area (Dandaragan) and local concerns that this could affect the available water supply. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation advised that had sent this through to the Swan-Avon Region but it may need to go to the Geraldton office. Still needs to be followed up.

RECOMMENDATION

To be followed up

NOTED

(c) Water Corporation – Map of Main Conduits in Farmland Area (Item 6.1)

At the last meeting Mr M Roberts undertook to make enquiries as to whether the Water Corporation's map of the main conduits in the farmland area could be circulated to delegates. The Water Corporation has advised that the map is not able to be circulated.

NOTED

6 ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration of the Annual Report on the Group's activities during the preceding financial year.
Presented by the President (attached).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Report of the Group's activities be received.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That the Annual Report of the Group's activities as presented by the President, as attached, be received. CARRIED

7 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consideration of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 (attached).

An examination of the financial statements was undertaken by Ms Natalie Bird, Deputy CEO/Finance Manager, Shire of Goomalling.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2021, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Eileen O'Connell moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2021, as attached, be adopted. CARRIED

8 ELECTIONS

8.1 Election of Officers

The term of office for the following positions expires at the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting -

President
Deputy President
3 Executive Committee Members

At the close of nominations, the following nominations were received:

President -
Cr Tony Sachse (Shire of Mount Marshall)
Deputy President -
Cr Rosemary Madacsi (Shire of Toodyay)
Cr Ross Chappell (Shire of Lake Grace)
Executive Committee Member (3 Positions)
Mr Lawrie Short
Cr Rosemary Madacsi (Shire of Toodyay)
Cr Ross Chappell (Shire of Lake Grace)

The Rules provide –

- (a) that where a member nominates for more than one position on the Executive Committee the members valid nominations are to be taken in the order the positions are listed in the notice calling for nominations and once elected to a position all of the members remaining valid nominations are to be excluded; and
- (b) that for those positions for which only one nomination is received, the persons nominated are deemed to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

In accordance with the above Cr Tony Sachse is deemed to be elected to the position of President and Mr Lawrie Short is deemed to be elected to the position of Executive Committee Member. The nomination for an Executive Committee Member by the person elected as Deputy President will be excluded and the other will be deemed elected to the position of Executive Committee Member.

An election will be held for the position of Deputy President

As no nominations were received for the third Executive Committee Member the Rules provide that nominations may be received for this position from the floor of the Annual General Meeting.

The President invited that Executive Officer to conduct the elections for Deputy President and one Executive Committee Member.

Deputy President

Cr R Madacsi and Cr R Chappell each gave a brief address to the meeting.

The Executive Officer requested that delegates text their vote to his mobile phone rather than indicating their vote on screen.

The Executive Officer counted the votes and announced that a majority of votes had been cast in favour of Cr Ross Chappell. The Executive Officer declared Cr Chappell elected as the Group's Deputy President for a term of two years.

Executive Committee Member

The Executive Officer invited nominations for the position of one Executive Committee member.

Cr R Chappell nominated Cr Mark Crees (accepted)

There being no further nominations the Executive Officer declared Cr Mark Crees elected to the position of Executive Committee member for a term of two years. The Executive Committee to comprise Lawrie Short, Rosemary Madacsi and Mark Crees.

Cr T Sachse, incoming President, indicated that it was his intention that the Executive Committee meet 1 to 2 weeks before each General Meeting to assist in formulating the meeting Agenda.

9 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES & BUDGET

9.1 Membership Fees 2022

Consideration of membership fees for 2022. Last year membership fees were –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00

RECOMMENDATION

That membership fees for 2022 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

RESOLUTION

Denese Smythe moved and Eileen O'Connell seconded –

That membership fees for 2022 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

CARRIED

The Chair pointed out the membership fees reflected the voting entitlements between the different classes of membership – Associations 2; Individuals 1.

9.2 Budget 2022

Consideration of the Group's Budget for 2022. Draft Budget for the year ending 31 December 2022 is attached.

Notes on the draft budget –

Receipts

- It is proposed that there be no increase in membership fees.

Payments

- Allocation for Secretarial Service based on three meetings per year plus amount of \$385.98 from 2021 not paid until 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2022, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2022, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED

Hon Martin Aldridge entered the meeting at 9:32 am.

10 MATTERS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

10.1 Recognition of Water Issues Specific to the Western Wheatbelt

BACKGROUND

Cr R Madacsi has given notice of the following item. Copies circulated to delegates prior to the meeting.

COMMENT

I would like to raise for discussion the forming of a subgroup item for rural councils with water related issues specific to the geology of their region. The Shires of Gingin to Beverley and Goomalling and Victoria Plains to a lesser extent, are located above the Jimperding Metamorphic Belt which strongly influences groundwater sources and capacity, drainage and management options. Most of the main water programs and solutions currently being discussed are either not relevant to these Shires or they do not qualify, yet they are experiencing serious water related issues that need inclusion in the Rural Water Council's agenda and profile.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rural Water Council recognises the distinction of geology induced water pressures for Shires along the Western extent of the Wheatbelt and will expand its agenda and lobbying to include these member issues.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Mark Crees seconded –

That the Rural Water Council recognises the distinction of geology induced water pressures for local governments along the Western extent of the Avon region and will expand its agenda and lobbying to include these member issues.

CARRIED

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Group

BACKGROUND

Following the 2021 local government elections member Councils are to appoint a delegate and deputy delegate to the Group.

COMMENT

Member Councils have advised their delegates and deputy delegates to the Group as follows –

Council	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
Shire of Chittering	Cr David Dewar Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Cr Mark Campbell
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Lindsay Hagboom Cr Darrel Hudson	
Shire of Goomalling	Mr Rodney Sheen Mr Peter Clarke	Cr Julie Chester
Shire of Koorda	Mr Darren Simmons (CEO)	
Shire of Lake Grace	Cr Len Armstrong Cr Ross Chappell	
Shire of Merredin	Cr Julie Flockart	
Shire of Moora	TBA	
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Tony Sachse	Cr Tanya Gibson
Shire of Mukinbudin	TBA	
Shire of Narembeen	Cr Chris Bray	
Shire of Nungarin	Cr Eileen O'Connell Cr Gary Coumbe	Cr Jason Davis
Shire of Toodyay	Cr Rosemary Madacsi	
Shire of Victoria Plains	Cr Pauline Bantock Cr Gary O'Brien	
Shire of Westonia	Cr Ross Della Bosca Cr Drake Crees	
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	TBA	
Shire of York	Cr Denese Smythe	Cr Denis Warnick

Non local government members are –
Lawrie Short
Norm Smith

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

11.2 Application for Membership

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC advised that he wished to join the Group as an individual member. He commented that he would like to support the Group through his membership and advised that as a Member of Parliament he would abstain from voting.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Ross Della Bosca seconded –

That Colin de Grussa's application for membership of the Rural Water Council be approved.

CARRIED

11.3 Water Corporation Report

Presentation of the Water Corporation report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Corporation Report be received.

Ms Shannon Arnott commented that Mr Mike Roberts was away for a few months and that she was Acting Regional Manager. She presented the Water Corporation's report (attached).

Cr T Sachse referred to the four purpose built desalination units to be installed in the Wheatbelt and asked where they were to be situated. Ms Arnott replied that she would follow up.

Cr S Woods asked if the Farmlands Project will continue after Stage 8 and whether additional funds would be available under WaterSmart Farms Program. Ms Arnott replied that WaterSmart Farms was a relatively new program and she was unsure of the funding but will liaise with the Project Manager. With regards to the continuation of the Farmlands Project she would follow up.

Cr R Madacsi enquired if there was a clear distinction between the WaterSmart Farms Program and the WaterSmart Dams initiative and whether the funding was separate. Ms Arnott replied that there were separate programs.

RESOLUTION

**Rosemary Madacsi moved and Ross Chappell seconded –
That the Water Corporation's report be received.**

CARRIED

Hon Steve Martin MLC entered the meeting at 9:50 am.

11.4 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report

Presentation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report be received.

Report (attached) circulated to delegates following conclusion of the meeting.

11.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Report on the Southern Wheatbelt Regional Drought Resilience Planning program, funded through the Future Drought Fund. The Wheatbelt Development Commission and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, with support from the Shires of Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Kulin, Kondinin and Wagin are developing a "Drought Resilience Plan" for the region covering those Shires.

Ms R Manning commented –

- Southern Wheatbelt Regional Drought Resilience Planning -
 - The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program is an Australian wide program under the Federal Future Drought Fund.
 - The Great Southern and Wheatbelt Development Commissions are working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to develop a plan for the Southern Wheatbelt.
 - Consultation has begun and engaging with four local governments – Dumbleyung, Kondinin, Kulin and Lake Grace.
 - Current focus is on building a business plan.
 - The outcome is a drought plan for the region highlighting key actions.
 - Hope to have the first plans by the end of June. These will then be available for public feedback.
 - The intention to roll the program out to other regions.
- WaterSmart Farms –
 - An overarching program.
 - First round of funding focussed on on-farm desalination.
 - WaterSmart Dams part of a broader initiative.

- Happy to answer questions off-line.
- Suggested that an invitation be made to Mr Richard George to give an update to the Group on the WaterSmart program.

RESOLUTION

**Ross Chappell moved and Rosemary Madacsi seconded –
That the Wheatbelt Development Commission's report be received.**

CARRIED

11.6 District Reports

Dandaragan (Lawrie Short)

Given an excellent 2021/2022 growing season and resultant good harvest, with some 600 mm of annual rainfall or more within our region, there has been a very good superficial aquifer and contained aquifers such as the Leederville-Parmelia recharge. So, far this year we have recorded 14.5 mm of rain, North Miling may have had more.

Many of the harvest results have probably shown best figures in 40 or more years, that was certainly the case in North Miling as well. As we also have reasonable mobs of sheep around our Dandaragan place they are not as plentiful in North Miling, so my daughter-in-law's father is the exception, with quite a good shearing this year.

As a result of the good recharge this year I believe the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations (DWER) has been busy imposing restrictions and or conditions, though, in some cases only advising of site-specific water supplies for new projects including:

- The under-construction Koojan "Organic" Feedlot providing North West and Kimberley Cattle for Harvey Beef, who provide boxed beef to some 38 counties;
- The currently operating Camel Dairy is looking to set up a processing plant, however suitable land has not been found in the Shire;
- West Pork have started construction, with approvals and conditions granted;
- The Spud Shed, Galati family have purchased land to the East of the Indian Ocean Drive (possibly over the Nilgen Contained Aquifer);
- There are expansions of potatoes growing enterprises and what appears to be superficial water sourced irrigated, fodder crops.

In general land prices are buoyant with considerable interest in the Western Wheatbelt for cropping.

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

From November 2.5 mm, December and January no recorded rainfall, February 3.5 mm and at the time of this meeting March 4 mm. It was a dry harvest for which I think everyone was grateful after a wet winter. Yields varied with some record breakers down to mediocre this was due to being too wet. A lot of hay crops in the area were harvested instead of being cut for hay and there were issues with samples being too high with screenings or ergot.

Those who still have stock are much happier this year as they don't have to worry about water and there is more feed around. Though saying this a lot of dams have dropped in capacity due to evaporation and the dryness of dams for so long being soaked up. Also have heard from two or three farmers that have had a dam go dry due to being cleaned out with an excavator and disturbing the base of the dam causing them to leak. Getting shearing done when you normally get it done is also an issue due to the lack of shearers and or having teams turn up with a full crew and or only working part of the day.

Shire

With the moisture back and able to get access to water for road construction we have been able to get on with road works. Most of our roads handled the big harvest okay, you always still have problems and we did request trucks to ease up on their speed on the gravel, though some of our road counters saying different with some trucks being well over 110 km on the gravel.

We are still working on water issues, harvesting as much water as we can and identifying where improvements can be made. The Shire is part of the Southern Wheatbelt Regional Drought Resilience Plan – Project Advisory Group looking at all issues of being water deficient.

A lot of our projects are behind schedule due to shortage of materials and tradesmen like so many Shires and businesses.

Mount Marshall (Tony Sachse)

The Shire of Mount Marshall is very pleased that we have received correspondence from the Manager of Water Efficiency Partnerships, Water Corporation, that our commitment to building waterwise communities over the 2020/2021 reporting period has led to our re-endorsement as a Waterwise Council for 2022.

The Shire of Mount Marshall is pleased that the Waddouring Dam area is now open to the public for recreation activities and camping. It's expected that it will be popular with both local and visitors to the Shire, and will further add to existing tourist attractions.

On farm water supplies are mostly adequate at this time, given the above average 2021 rainfall and some further rain in February 2022.

The Shire of Mount Marshall is very pleased with the recent announcement on 7 March by the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, regarding the boost to the WaterSmart Farms Program

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/03/Boost-to-WaterSmart-Farms-program.aspx>

Comments by the Minister include "Our WaterSmart Farms program is about encouraging on-farm initiatives that build climate resilience, helping farmers to take the steps they need to manage climate impacts". There is no doubt that innovation such as purpose built on farm desalination units utilising brackish water will help with water security into the future.

Toodyay (Rosemary Madacsi)

Protracted dry weather has driven the Northam KBDI observations to 180 mm, well above the five year average of 10-80 mm. Rainfall for 2022 has been relatively even across the centre of the Shire from West to East (Morangup to Nunile, 42 mm to 30-40 mm) with heavier falls to the north (Bejoording, 50 mm). Storm fronts largely missed the southern Clackline/Hoddywell area with only 8 mm recorded.

This year's water sustainability program through Community Water Supply grants have been realized with the February delivery of four 47,000 L water tanks - three asset renewal tanks for Morangup, Coondle (West) and Coondle (East) and one capacity increase tank at Julimar. A 27,000 L tank was repurposed to provide capacity upgrade for Morangup and tanks were filled from rainwater 'hubs', with no potable water drawn.

March saw the pressurised water delivery completed at the Julimar Fire Station (some plumbing to be completed) which will make this site operational for Shire works crew (just not fire) and the Shire is expecting delivery of five 47,000 L tanks - one asset renewal, three for new sites and one for capacity increase, during April to May.

The newly installed eftpos operated community standpipe suffered from protracted heat and an eftpos part failed on 21 January leaving the community without access until 11 March. A hybridized higher heat resistant part was supplied for \$11,000. Shading on the unit is a must.

The Shire has commenced examining the feasibility of wastewater reuse from the sewerage treatment system and catchment of the townsite rainwater for street trees and public open space use. Feasibility will be expanded to address domestic storage capacity, particularly within the rural residential subdivisions to relieve pressure on potable supplies from the community standpipe.

RECOMMENDATION

That District Reports be received.

Cr R Madacsi commented that the Toodyay area was having problems with water sustainability. Looking at how water issues can be addressed.

Cr T Sachse suggested that water issues be raised even if they are outside of a member's area. He proposed that the issue of how to address water issues be listed for discussion by the Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION:

**Ross Chappell moved and Rosemary Madacsi seconded –
That District Reports be received.**

CARRIED

11.7 Members of Parliament

Brief comments by Members of Parliament.

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC commented that water was a major issue and he looked forward to participating with the Group. He apologised for having to leave the meeting early.

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC commented –

- Apologies for his late attendance.
- Found it useful to hear reports from across the region.
- Noted that issues do vary between the different regions.
- Lack of power and the impact of bushfires has been a focus over the last few months. Power outages have an effect on supply of water.

Hon Colin de Grussa left the meeting at 10:08 am.

- Water Deficiency Declarations for Salmon Gums and Grass Patch.
- Farm Water Grants Scheme - Believe the Scheme should be reinstated and that farm water rebates were an important component.
Cr T Sachse commented that when the Group met with the Minister for Water in 2020, he indicated that the Government has no appetite to reinstate the Farm Water Grants Scheme. The Rural Water Council believes the Scheme was a great initiative and should have been continued.
- Think that under the water supply scheme to farms, if power is lost there is a period of 3-6 days for supply to be restored. This puts customers at risk while repairs are made. Unsure if customers are aware of this provision.
- Hon Mia Davies MLA is acting in the shadow water portfolio. Expecting a new permanent appointment in the next few weeks.

The meeting requested that the supply of energy and power and the effect of outages on water supply be listed (a) for discussion by the Executive Committee and (b) on the Agenda for the Group's July meeting.

Hon Steve Martin MLC commented –

- Apologies for his late attendance.
- The Wickepin/Narrogin fire damaged the water pipeline servicing the area. Supply was guaranteed for households but not for stock. The good winter allowed households to take water from dams.
- The Minister for Water needs to be reminded that even with the good winter, issues with water have not gone away, eg Salmon Gums/Grass Patch Water Deficiency Declaration.

Cr T Sachse commented that the bushfires highlighted water and fuel resources at airstrips as a problem. There are also communication issues with aircraft operating in inland areas. Hon S Martin commented that he was aware that weather conditions make air support difficult and advised that he will follow up the communication issues. Hon M Aldridge commented that he was aware that the Fire Control Officer on the ground did not have radio compatibility with aerial support until DFES arrived.

Cr R Chappell commented on concerns with telecommunications, power and water outages when impacted by natural disasters.

Hon M Aldridge commented on the need to change focus from coverage to resilience. There are some 2,000 base stations in Western Australia and he was not sure that their upgrades were solely a telco issue. He suggested the local governments contact DFES with regards to the resilience of these networks.

Cr R Madacsi referred to the May round of local government meetings and queried whether the issue of telecommunications and water should be pushed at these meetings.

11.8 Finance Report

There has been no activity in the Groups accounts for the period 1 January 2022 to 28 February 2022. The Group's current cash balance is \$6,266.94.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

Ms Renee Manning left the meeting at 10:23 am.

11.9 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 October 2021 to March 2022	2,051.26
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u>\$2,051.26</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$2,051.26 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Ross Chappell seconded –

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$2,051.26 be passed for payment.

CARRIED

11.10 Bank Signatures

The Group's Rules (Rule 19.1) provide that the all cheques and other negotiable instruments of the Group and all electronic payments must be signed, made or authorised (as applicable) by any two Executive Committee members or one Executive Committee member and the Administrator.

The current persons authorised to operate the banks accounts are Mr Lawrie Short, Cr Tony Sachse and the Executive Officer (as Administrator).

With the change in officer holders following this year's elections, the Group's bank will require a resolution to authorise the new persons to operate the bank accounts. It is also recommended that online banking arrangements be set up.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the signatories authorised to operate the Group's bank accounts be Cr Tony Sachse (President), Cr _____ (Deputy President), Mr Lawrie Short (Executive Committee Member) and Robert Dew (Administrator); and
- (b) That online banking arrangements for the Group's Westpac Bank Accounts be setup.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Mark Crees seconded –

- (a) **That the signatories authorised to operate the Group's bank accounts be Cr Tony Sachse (President), Cr Ross Chappell (Deputy President), Mr Lawrie Short (Executive Committee Member) and Robert Dew (Administrator); and**
- (b) **That online banking arrangements for the Group's Westpac Bank Accounts be setup.**

CARRIED

11.11 Membership Renewal

The Shire of Gingin has advised that at its 16 November 2021 meeting Council resolved to cease membership to the Rural Water Council. In the report to Council, it was noted –

The Shire of Gingin is impacted by a number of serious water-related issues, including (but not limited to), groundwater allocations for rural properties and the effects of water usage and a drying climate on natural water courses such as the Gingin Brook and the Moore River. However, the Minutes of meetings indicate that Council membership primarily consists of representatives from inland local governments, that tend to experience a different range of issues. Whilst meetings certainly provide a forum for discussion of those issues it is debatable as to whether the Shire of Gingin benefits to any great degree from participating.

It is recommended that Council not renew its membership of the RWCWA. However, if Council wishes to remain a member, then it will be necessary to appoint a representative.

Cr Frank Johnson, the Shire of Gingin's delegate, advised that he would not be renominating for the Group's Executive Committee, commented that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time being involved with the Group and thanked everyone for their kindness and assistance during the past two years. A letter of thanks has been sent to Cr Johnson, also pointing out that he was welcome to continue with the Group as an individual member.

The Shire of Dandaragan has not renewed its membership for 2020 or 2021. The President has spoken with the Shire and has been informally advised that the Shire will not be continuing its membership of the Group.

NOTED

11.12 Other

No other matters were brought forward.

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 8 July 2022
- Friday 21 October 2022

The last meeting requested that the venue for the July 2022 meeting be listed for discussion at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 8 July 2022 and, subject to COVID-19 safe requirements, be hosted by _____.

Ms Shannon Arnott confirmed that the Water Corporation's Cunderdin office is set up for video conferencing and would be available for meetings of the Group.

Cr Rosemary Madacsi advised that the Shire of Toodyay was available to host the July meeting.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Ross Chappell seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 8 July 2022 and, subject to COVID-19 safe requirements, the venue be considered by the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked delegates and observers for their attendance, the Executive Officer for running the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 10:30 pm.

The Executive Officer advised that to align with the financial year, invoices for membership will, as in previous years, be sent out after 1 July.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

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

ANNUAL REPORT

What an extraordinary twelve months we have experienced. As we commenced the year, we continued in the Covid-19 pandemic with various factors inhibiting overseas labour being available for seeding and harvesting programs and yet we continued to receive good rains resulting in a great season. North Miling had the best season in 40 years. Some world situations may have further pressure on preparations for the coming season, such as rising costs of fuel and fertiliser.

Unfortunately, some of the bad effects of such a season have been washouts of roads and even extending to undermining of Water Corporation pipelines necessitating unbudgeted repair expenditure. On the upside The Farmlands Project gratefully received an additional \$20 m to continue the appreciated works ensuring a great service to all in the Wheatbelt. Some of the anomalies we observed was that prior to the overall good rains I believe Salmon Gums was still requiring townsite water services to be supplementarily topped up with trucked in water.

Given what has been a good season for on farm water storage and the rock capture of waters, which has been made available through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations (DWER) and Local Government funding. An example of this has been Denmark, water reserves only a short number of years ago who had been without an adequate supply, which on top of a good season they had a large forest fire, with plenty of water. It has also been interesting that early stubble fires have got out of control in parts of the wheatbelt, due to unforeseen strong winds which seemed to bypass regulatory awarding of "permits to burn". The stubble appears to have been greater in volume and unfortunately the low number of stock in some areas has led to a bigger build up. Though North Miling still has enough stock to take advantage of the situation.

It has been good to see the Coastal Plains West of the Darling Scarp emerge as the Western Wheatbelt plus attractive to intensive horticulture, allied Rural Industry. DWER ensure Development Applications are correctly endorsed with suitable conditions to protect contained aquifers and superficial waters when applicable, however they have to also be aware that some uses of "Stock and Domestic" have a liberal use of their water supply. I also realise like most government agencies they have to watch their expenditure against their effective work outcomes, for which I applaud them.

In conclusion I thank all Agency delegates, Local Government delegates and unattached delegates who have so assisted this Council during my tenure as President. I will continue to attend as I am able. Thank you to Executive Officer Robert Dew particularly for your attendance to all issues of this very interesting Council.

Lawrie Short
President

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

		Actual For Year	Estimate For Year
RECEIPTS			
Membership			
Associations (16 @ \$300)	4,800.00		4,800
Individuals (2 @ \$150)	<u>300.00</u>	5,100.00	300
Membership (Previous Year)			
Associations (3 @ \$300)		900.00	0
Interest Earned		<u>0.00</u>	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u><u>\$6,000.00</u></u>	<u>5,100</u>
PAYMENTS			
Meeting Expenses			
Teleconference	<u>301.31</u>	301.31	200
Secretarial Service		<u>2,806.32</u>	5,000
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u><u>\$3,107.63</u></u>	<u>5,200</u>
CASH SUMMARY			
Opening Balance		3,073.26	3,073
Plus Receipts		<u>6,000.00</u>	5,100
		9,073.26	8,173
Less Payments		<u>3,107.63</u>	5,200
Closing Balance		<u><u>\$5,965.63</u></u>	<u>2,973</u>
BANK RECONCILIATION			
Cheque Account Balance (as at 31/12/2021) (Westpac)		6,266.94	
Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement		<u>0.00</u>	
		6,266.94	
Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement		<u>301.31</u>	
Balance as per Cash Book		<u><u>\$5,965.63</u></u>	



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Robert Dew
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

RECEIPTS	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual Last Year</u>
Membership:		
Associations 16 @ \$300	4,800	4,800
Individuals 2 @ \$150	300	300
Previous Year	0	900
	<u>5,100</u>	<u>900</u>
Interest Earned	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$5,100</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>

PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses	200	301
Bank Fees	0	0
Secretarial Service	5,000	2,806
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>\$5,200</u>	<u>\$3,108</u>

CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	5,966	3,073
Plus Receipts	<u>5,100</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	11,066	9,073
Less Payments	<u>5,200</u>	<u>3,108</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$5,866</u>	<u>\$5,966</u>

REPORTS

WATER CORPORATION

Farmlands Project

The total budget for financial year 2022 is \$6.2M, stage 7 and 8 projects are progressing well with first packages for stage 7 almost complete and stage 8 being tendered during January–February. Construction to be completed June 2022.

Stage 4

Remaining work;

- Trayning - 1 section of pipe totalling Approx. 1600m to be replaced on KN Main. Existing pipe sections replaced by new DN200 and DN150 PVC pipe from CH81.0-83.1km (a section across the Salt Lake has been deferred to dryer weather due to water table constraints) Latest rain closed this window, going back out to Tender Feb 2022.
- 1 site had been delayed across the Avon River due to weather, Drilling the Avon riverbed for Geotechnical data has been completed is being analysed. Possible construction this year awaiting DWER approvals.

Total budget to end of FY 2021 of \$4.6M

Stage 5

Complete

Stage 6

Complete

Stage 7

- 4 Packages equalling 17 sites
- Design Complete and under Construction expected to complete End of Feb
- To Include 4km pipe replacement KN Main, - Sth Trayning – 14 underlays - LD main Kellerberrin/ Bruce Rock and 2 underlays - CK main in Minnivale.
- 2 sites to be awarded to Aboriginal Contractors. 1 stand alone in Dowering and 1 package in Kellerberrin

Total Budget \$3.2m

Stage 8

- 5 Packages equalling 17 sites
- 4 packages out to Tender
- To Include 1.4km pipe replacement and 6 underlays - KN20 Main, Bencubbin. 3 Underlays - KN3/4 main Kellerberrin, 3 Underlays - KN main Trayning 2 Road crossings (lateral Drilling) MS20/20C mains in Narambeen and 2 sites totalling 7.5km pipe replacement in Perenjori Bowgada Morowa.
- Several Stand-alone sites to be awarded to Aboriginal Contractors
- We have 6 local contractors and 6 Aboriginal contractors tendering for Farmlands Projects.

Total Budget \$3.2m

WaterSmart Farms Update – Formerly On-Fam Desalination Project

- A program of work under the WaterSmart Farms banner is working towards tapping into the currently under-utilised local water sources on farms to deploy decentralised (on-farm) desalination treatment technologies at least four purpose-built desalinisation units. These have been purchased and have or will soon be installed in different areas of the Wheatbelt to meet various needs. This project will push the technology and explore the potential to use more saline water in desalinisation units.
- This component of WaterSmart Farms Project Carry out full-scale trial for water supply based on a brackish groundwater resource and focus on Operating, maintenance costs and reliability under real conditions for a period of approximately 2-3 years.
- The project will also engage with the various stakeholders, including farmers and the business community, to build support for the solutions and outcomes.

- We have surveyed over two dozen farmers who have invested in desalination units throughout the wheatbelt to gather intelligence on decision making, operations, costs and typical groundwater characteristics to help drive future decision making and help farmers understand limitations and opportunities that exist with this technology. The findings from this will be published later this year.

Also, WaterSmart Farms has a project working with Wongutha Christian Aboriginal School located approximately 50km North of Esperance

WaterSmart Farms - Wongutha Christian Aboriginal School

- As part of WaterSmart Farms, Water Corporation, DPIRD and Murdoch University are currently working with Wongutha Christian Aboriginal School (90km NE of Esperance) to install a trial brackish groundwater desalination unit at the site to enable the school to facilitate further irrigation and agricultural teaching.
- A grant of \$520K has been successful through the National Water Grid Authority, Small Water Infrastructure Projects. The fund requires an infrastructure project to be planned and delivered within 2 years and co-contributions are required (both cash and in kind).
- This will enable WaterSmart Farms to trial a groundwater desalination plant using renewable energy, an extension to the rainwater harvesting, research irrigation of saltbush for pasture and provide further educational opportunities in water and irrigation for the school.
- The groundwater and the desalination unit are currently being installed and commissioned. The bore drilling has been successful and further bores have been drilled for the purpose of putting the reject water back into salter aquifers on the site. These will be monitored by Murdoch University to determine if it is a future sustainable option of disposing of reject water.

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.

Water Deficiency Declarations

Despite above average rainfall across most of the dryland agricultural area, hot and windy conditions in the south eastern (Esperance) area have depleted on-farm water supplies for livestock needs. As of March 1 2022, Salmon Gums and Grass Patch were declared water deficient by the Minister for Water. All Strategic supplies including the Salmon Gums quarry do not have sufficient water to meet livestock drinking demands. Water is being carted to tanks at Salmon Gums quarry and Grass Patch local town dam site for 12 registered farmers in Salmon Gums and 5 in Grass Patch to meet livestock drinking water needs.

Standpipe swipe card systems have been installed to monitor and control water access. All registered farmers have unique fobs to enable access.

WDD procedures are currently being reviewed and changes to Water Deficiency Declaration management will be communicated with all Shires and grower groups (including WAFarmers and WALGA) in coming months.

Community Water Supply program 2020/21 Round - In Progress (All expected)

The Shire of Merredin Near Completion	\$75,120	Improve their extensive stormwater reuse network to provide water for irrigation of public open spaces. The non-potable piping system will be extended to the town cemetery site and a new 362 kilolitre capacity storage tank has been installed. Extending the non-potable supply network will replace scheme water to irrigate the gardens. Annual scheme cost savings will result in approximately \$8,000. Near completion. An evaporation trial was also undertaken using a polymer spray over one of the town dams. Two open tanks were used as a control. One tank with no polymer and one with polymer spray. While the technique maybe successful to a certain extent the observed water loss between the two tanks was minimal.
The Shire of Mukinbudin Progressing	\$100,000	Lay 15 kilometres of pipe from the 200,000 kilolitre capacity Barbalin Dam to the town of Mukinbudin. The dam, fed by a large rock catchment has been recently handed over from Water Corporation and will reliably provide an additional 90,000 kilolitres to irrigate the sporting facilities and public open spaces. Pipe has been purchased and Shire and Water Corporation confirming water access agreements.
The Shire of Wyalkatchem Project completed	\$100,000	This project component aims to address poor drainage issues associated with the 693,603 square metre eastern catchment that flows to the town's non-portable community dam that is in poor condition with ineffective channel gradients. Works include channel reconstruction and realignment to optimise runoff into the town dam. Gamble street has been reconstructed with new curbing and drains rock pitched. The project will avoid problematic flooding of the town's shops and facilities in high rainfall events and redirect water to optimise the towns non-potable water supply for townscape irrigation.

The Shire of Wyalkatchem Project completed.	\$79,759	This project component aims to also address poor catchment drainage issues including flooding in sections of Railway Terrace recontouring channels to the town's non-potable community dam. The catchment channels will be upgraded and realigned to optimise runoff into the town dam.
The Shire of Chapman Valley Project completed.	\$100,000	Upgrade the 30 year old pump and pipe infrastructure from the Rockwell bore to improve supply of non-potable water to the Yuna townsite. Twelve kilometres of new pipework will be installed from the bore to Yuna and fitted with a new submersible pump system. Additional solar panels will be installed to increase the capacity of the network to deliver more water to Yuna. A new 132 kilolitre capacity tank will be installed at the sporting facilities.
The Shire of Toodyay Project completed.	\$79,818	<p>This project builds on the Shire's previous works undertaken to enhance storage and access to emergency firefighting water across the Shire.</p> <p>The project will focus on four fire brigade sites and boost the stormwater harvesting systems. Storage capacity will be enhanced at each site where combined storage capacity will increase by 775 kilolitres.</p> <p>The additional water storage and pump system upgrades will secure an emergency non-potable source for firefighting and reduce the reliance on the Shire's limited scheme water supplies.</p>
The Shire of Jerramungup Project near completion est March 2022.	\$87,174	<p>Project will boost the non-potable emergency water supplies in the Boxwood Hill area of the Shire which in recent years has experienced well below average rainfall. A new 15,000 kilolitre capacity dam on the old rock quarry site at Boxwood Hill. The supply will provide an important non-potable water supply to supplement the existing irrigation dam that is becoming increasingly unreliable due to salt seepage.</p> <p>The source will also boost the emergency water supply network in the Gairdner area that has experienced water deficiencies and provide a back-up emergency livestock drinking water.</p>
The Shire of Plantagenet Project completed.	\$94,031	<p>Project will further boost their non-potable supplies in Mount Barker to irrigate the expansive Sounness Park Recreation Precinct and Frost Park Oval.</p> <p>A new 35,000 kilolitre capacity dam will be constructed at the turf club training track. The dam will be linked to the existing 30,000 kilolitre capacity dam through a new pump and pipe system.</p>
The Shire of Gnowangerup Project Completed	\$100,000	<p>Project will build a 12,000 kilolitre capacity dam at the Gnowangerup airstrip.</p> <p>There is an existing 10,000 kilolitre dam that captures water off the runway and surrounding reserve however this is inaccessible and regularly overflows. Connection between the two dams will increase total capacity to 22,000 kilolitres.</p> <p>A solar pump system will be installed to transfer water between dams and a generator will serve as a backup power system.</p> <p>Two 250 kilolitre capacity tanks will be installed and a road created for farmers and the fire brigade to access the tanks.</p>

The Shire of Lake Grace Project Completed	\$100,000	Project will upgrade two Agricultural Area dams north of Newdegate town. Recently handed over to the Shire from the Water Corporation, the Lake Biddy dams will be desilted, the dam batters and inlets will be upgraded and stabilised with rock pitching. Half of the large 44 hectare catchment will be upgraded to optimise runoff to both dams and the system will be equipped with a 250 Kilolitre capacity tank and solar pump system.
Total	\$926,656	

2020/21 AA Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies Program of Works (as at 28 June 2021)

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation - Rural Water Planning undertakes works to provide strategic off-farm water supplies for general farm use in areas of the dry land agricultural region of the south-western Australia that receives less than 600mm 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 2020/21 Program of Works invested in 31 sites/projects across 11 shires

2018/19	\$427,558.39
2019/20	\$1,061,079.60
2020/21	\$623,103.21
2021-22	\$114,773.98
Total	\$2,226,515.18

2021/22 financial year - A number of projects are underway including (final expenditure will be reported at next RWC meeting):

- Upgrades to Allen Rocks (Shire of Kulin) strategic bore supply where a new tank has been installed. Salinity and groundwater level monitors will soon be installed.
- Installation of 3 new tanks at King Rocks dam (Shire of Kondinin) to boost storage (adds to the three existing tanks).
- Egg Rock (Shire of Westonia) – Engineer assessment of tank leakage and test of water proofing material. Now seeking quotes to seal the inside of the tank to stop leakage.
- Various other jobs include purchasing 2 new mobile swipe card systems.

National Water Grid Connections Funding Projects (2 year projects to be finalised June 2023)

1. 2021/22 Community Water Supply Partnership Program

NOTE: (Please contact Renae Thorpe renae.thorpe@dwer.wa.gov.au or Bonny Dunlop-Heague bonny.dunlop-heague@dwer.wa.gov.au if you are interested in applying for a Community Water Supply Grant or require further information).

The Community Water Supplies Partnership Program Partnership with Local Government is one of nine successful Western Australian State Government water infrastructure projects under \$5 million.

The project will focus on partnering with Shires in the dryland agricultural area of Western Australia that receive less than 600mm annual average rainfall. The project will run several project rounds/expressions of interest over the two year project period.

The project \$3.2 million 50% co-funding contribution between the State and Commonwealth Governments. Up to \$100,000 is available for each project that requires a further 30% co-contribution of the total project value from the partnering Shire.

Outputs

- Build the water security of rural communities and towns now and into the future;
- Improve emergency water supplies for farmers and firefighting;
- Provision of standalone emergency firefighting is becoming more important as a result of continued drying conditions and the occurrence of more frequent wild fires. Non-potable water infrastructure projects will reduce the reliance on potable scheme water that is often compromised by power outages.
- Contribute to public and social amenity and boost rural community wellbeing through provision of water to irrigate and maintain green public open spaces;
- Build resilience in farming communities to combat climate change; and
- Assist during periods of drought, especially where farmers experience on-farm livestock and agricultural water deficiencies.

Approved Projects 2021/22 Round 1

Year	Shire	Project Description	Total Grant Value (co-funded)	Project status
2021/22	Boyup Brook	<p>The Shire of Boyup Brook has applied for funding to build drought resilience and security by installing 5.6km of 75mm pipe to connect an unused Water Corporation town dam reservoir to the non-potable community water storage dam.</p> <p>The pipeline will transfer 100 kilolitres per day of non-potable water from the old town supply dam via gravity flow which will deliver approximately 20 000 kilolitres per year. The non-potable water will be used to irrigate ovals, tennis courts, Flax Mill caravan park, recreation areas, parks and gardens.</p> <p>This will increase public amenity and water storage capacity in the town of Boyup Brook. It is estimated the project will reduce scheme water use by about 9 500 kilolitres per year resulting in annual cost savings of \$25 000.</p>	\$100,000	Commenced
2021/22	Brookton	<p>The Shire of Brookton has applied for funding to reduce the reliance on scheme water and derive as much benefit as possible from their licenced non-potable bore.</p> <p>A new 200 kilolitre water tank will be installed as well as motorised valves linked to sensors to remotely control water transfer. The new tank will double the current bore water storage capacity. A new pump will connect the existing main tanks to deliver stored water to the network and an overflow control system will be connected.</p> <p>Once completed the Shire will have a system that allows better control of water distribution from the Happy Valley non-potable bore. The extra storage will ensure water is available at all times specifically in situations of emergency such as bushfires and extended dry periods.</p>	\$54 840	Commenced

2021/22	Dumbleyung	<p>The Shire of Dumbleyung has applied for funding to improve the stormwater runoff into the main Dumbleyung 33 megalitre capacity town dam. Works will include repairs to the inlet to the dam and upgrade and repairs to sections of the inflow channel. Stormwater capture will be optimised further by raising the overflow level in the rock and cement bunding which will increase the water holding capacity of the 10 megalitre stormwater capture dam that feeds the main town dam.</p> <p>The project will reduce the Shire's scheme water use and result in annual cost savings of approximately \$20,800. A 305 kilolitre capacity tank will also be installed to provide a backup emergency water supply for livestock and firefighting needs.</p>	\$72,746	Commenced
2021/22	Kulin	<p>The Shire of Kulin has applied for funding to enhance, protect and monitor non-potable water supplies in the Kulin Shire.</p> <p>The project will include the installation of standpipe controllers and card readers at three strategic community water supplies including Dudinin dam, Kulin dam and Henderson Road bore. The project will also include reconstruction of Pingaring East dam and include upgrades to the catchment and the installation of a 120,000 kilolitre capacity tank. The Dudinin dam catchment will also be upgraded and the Henderson Road bore will be fenced off to provide added security.</p>	\$86,286	Commenced
2021/22	Narrogin	<p>The Shire of Narrogin has applied for funding to capture storm water off Narrogin's 171.3 hectare townsite catchment area which will harvest up to 147.7 megalitres of water per year.</p> <p>The project will divert stormwater flows to a new storm water harvesting catchment dam.</p>	\$100,000	Commenced
2021/22	Perenjori	<p>The Shire of Perenjori has applied for funding to develop two bore sites to provide water sources for rural fire fighting services and rural road maintenance works. The work will include the construction of two bores, installation of a 200 kilolitre capacity water tank and pump at each site, on the eastern side of the Perenjori Shire.</p> <p>The water will also irrigate the local campground and be made available for livestock in in dry periods.</p>	\$99,987	Commenced

2021/22	Trayning	The Shire of Trayning has applied for funding to reduce the Shire's reliance on scheme use making the Shire more self-sufficient. Works will include realignment and upgrades to the 645 hectare catchment that feeds the Trayning town site twin dams that have a combined capacity of approximately 42 megalitres. Both dams will be refurbished that feeds to two existing 200 kilolitre capacity tanks that were installed with standpipe facilities under a previous Community Water Supply Project.	\$50,000	Commenced
2021/22	Williams	The Shire of Williams has applied for funding to provide a permanent source of non-potable water for community use. The project includes connection to an existing bore that is estimated to deliver 50 kilolitres per day of non-potable for emergency livestock drinking water. Two 250 kilolitre capacity tanks will be installed and connected to the bore for the farming community to access. The Shire have established an agreement with the Williams Golf Club Inc. that owns the land to allow general community access to this water supply into the future.	\$49,025	Commenced
2021/22	Albany	The City of Albany has applied for funding to optimise capture of rainfall runoff off the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre 6,200 square metre roof to provide fit-for-purpose water for irrigation of sporting ovals and the centres toilet flushing systems. The project will install two 250 kilolitre capacity tanks and associated pipework infrastructure. This fit-for-purpose water supply will provide a number of benefits to the community, while reducing the dependence on towns pressured scheme water supply. It is estimated the project will reduce scheme water use by 3,120 kilolitres per year resulting in annual cost savings of \$19,000.	62,000	Commenced
Total			\$674,884	

A further nine projects (grant value \$588, 175) are with the Minister for Water and are expected to be announced in coming weeks (Round 2). Details of these projects will be provided once approval process is complete.

2. National Water Grid Connections Fund – Agricultural Area & Strategic Community Dams Project

The State Government has been successful in securing funding through the Connections funding round of the National Water Grid Authority National Water Grid Authority Connections Fund. The \$7.3 million (co-funded) Agricultural Area and Strategic Community Dams Project is one of nine successful Western Australian State Government water infrastructure projects under \$5 million.

The Agricultural Area and Strategic Community Dams Project is located in the dryland agricultural area of the South West of Western Australia. 70 sites have been selected in priority rural areas covering 37 Regional Shires.

The two year project will provide water security and build resilience in farming communities in the dryland (South West) agricultural region of Western Australia.

- Procurement process is progressing.
- 53 project tasks are underway (outside of procurement process)
- Agreements and approvals including vegetation clearing progressing.

