



## RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)

Special General Meeting held at the  
Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Noongar Culture & Environment, Minson Avenue, Northam  
Thursday 30 January 2020, commencing 9:35 am

# Minutes

## 1 OPENING & WELCOME

The President, Mr L Short, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country and welcomed delegates and guests.

## 2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

### 2.1 Attendance

Mr Lawrie Short	President
Cr Kylie Hughes	Shire of Chittering
Cr John Curtis	Shire of Chittering
Mr Peter Stuart	Executive Manager Development Services, Shire of Chittering
Cr Frank Johnson	Shire of Gingin
Cr Rodney Sheen	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Clarke	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Bentley	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Mr Darren Simmons	CEO, Shire of Koorda
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Debrah Clarke	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin
Cr Renee Manning	Shire of Merredin
Mr Mark Dacombe	A/CEO, Shire of Merredin
Cr Julie Thomas	Shire of Moora
Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Tanya Gibson	Shire of Mount Marshall
Mr John Nuttall	CEO, Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Peter Lines	Shire of Narembeen
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Stephanie Penn	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Bob Edwards	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Stuart Taylor	CEO, Shire of Wongan-Ballidu (from 9:49 am)
Cr Denis Warnick	Shire of York
Cr David Wallace	Shire of York
Mr David Smith	
Mr Jason Moynihan	Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (from 9:56 am)
Mr Tracy Calvert	Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (from 9:56 am)
Mr Adrian Stewart	Regional Manager Great Southern Region, Water Corporation
Ms Elise Woods	Regional Manager Avon, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

### 2.2 Apologies

Mr Matthew Gilfellon	CEO, Shire of Chittering
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin
Mr Aaron Cook	CEO, Shire of Gingin
Cr Len Armstrong	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Romolo Patroni	Shire of Merredin
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Ross Della Bosca	Shire of Westonia
Mr Norm Smith	

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Eileen O'Connell and Cr Julie Thomas declared their interest in Water Corporation activities as their husbands are employees of the Water Corporation.

### 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

### 5 BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Applications for Membership

Applications for membership have been received from the Shire of Chittering and the Shire of Gingin.

#### Recommendation

That the applications from the Shire of Chittering and the Shire of Gingin for membership of the Group be approved.

#### RESOLUTION

**Eileen O'Connell moved and Tony Sachse seconded –**

**That the applications from the Shire of Chittering and the Shire of Gingin for membership of the Group be approved. CARRIED**

#### 5.2 Matters to be Discussed with Minister for Water

Brief consideration on the matters put forward for discussion with the Minister and allocation of lead delegate(s) to speak on each matter.

The following matters have been submitted and forwarded to the Minister's office –

- (1) Farm water audits - The continuing need for funding for farm water audits and the need to highlight the benefits water audits have and the water savings that can be achieved particularly as funding schemes to assist in implementing works identified by farm water audits have closed.
- (2) Closure of the Farm Water Rebates Scheme and Pastoral Water Grant Scheme. These schemes made a valuable contribution to water supply improvements and water efficiency in the dryland agricultural and pastoral regions. Need for the schemes to be reinstated in future State Government budgets.
- (3) Local government owned fixed standpipes pricing policy - Concerns with the way the change in policy was implemented, the timeline for its introduction and the impact on communities of the steep increase in fees which, in many cases, resulted in standpipes being locked.
- (4) Cost recovery of license fees - Concern that State Government license fees are increasingly tied to a cost recovery model which puts further financial strain on local government.
- (5) Community Water Supply Grant Program - Need for certainty as to the continuation and level of funding under this program, particularly due to the time required to prepare and organise project submissions.
- (6) Farmlands project - Due to the success of this project that every endeavour be made to continue the program.
- (7) Delays in transfer of AA tanks to local governments due to Native Title.
- (8) Sewerage - Lack of funding for the Water Corporation to put in sewerage systems and the limit this puts on development.
- (9) Reticulated Water - Lack of funding for the Water Corporation to put in reticulated water and the limit this puts on development.

- (10) Is there any likelihood of additional water being required from the "Dinner Hill" Aquifers (Leederville/Parmelia/Yarragadee) west of Moora to an area East of Badgingarra, for the Perth Metropolitan area?
- (11) Substantial horticulture areas (citrus, stone fruit and potatoes) have already been established in the area referred to in the above dot point and it is understood that new research in the area indicates more projects would be viable. Is there a plan to increase or otherwise encourage investment in that area by increasing water allocation limits?
- (12) In regard to the reserve for the metropolitan area, is there an opportunity to re-evaluate that percentage to be able to encourage High Intensity Agriculture use?
- (13) Would it be possible to offer an incentive to farmers/producers to be water conservative without losing or compromising their allocation so that more water can be released?
- (14) For situations such as the couple of farms that are selling water to Coca-Cola in large volumes - essentially, they have no employees, they're not producing anything and not really spending money in the Shire; should they be rated the same as everybody else? Could this be classed as an extractive industry?
- (15) On-selling of water licenses, instead of resumption of them by DWER, when license owners don't need the water has created a trade-able license. What is the Water Corporation doing about this matter?
- (16) If water reduction is the true aim what is the Water Corporation doing to incentivise the license holders to return portions of their license?
- (17) Is the State Government intending to invest in creating High Tech Education Area that will showcase what can be done with less water to prove to producers that water use can be significantly less and then assist producers to change?
- (18) We are aware that an assessment has been undertaken on bore holes in the Gingin/Moora area to look at water availability and the current allocations across the area. When will these findings be released?
- (19) Attendance at Rural Water Council meetings by officers from the Minister's Office. Past Ministers for Water had arranged for an officer from their office to regularly attend meetings of the Rural Water Council. This proved to be extremely beneficial in the exchange of information and in prompt advice on policy and non-operational matters raised at meetings.

The meeting reviewed that above items.

Cr O'Connell requested that matters listed for discussion with the Minister be dealt with before any other matters are brought forward.

Cr T Sachse requested that the Commonwealth's recent announcement of funding under the Drought Communities Program be listed for discussion.

Cr P Lines asked as to the requirements for water licenses. Mr J Moynihan replied that a license was required to take water from a watercourse or groundwater aquifers in proclaimed areas. Ms T Calvert replied that most of the Wheatbelt was unproclaimed but in areas with reasonable groundwater applicants should contact the Department's regional offices for confirmation. No fees apply for a license however licenses define how much and when water may be taken and specify any obligations the licence holder must meet when using the water. Bores may not be sunk into artesian water.

Cr R Chappel referred to agreements with local governments for regional fixed standpipes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

**RESUMPTION:** The meeting resumed at 10:15 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption plus Hon Dave Kelly (Minister for Water), Hon Darren West MLC (Member for Agricultural Region), Hon Laurie Graham MLC (Member for Agricultural Region), Ms Sharon Broad (Regional Manager Goldfields and Agricultural Region, Water Corporation), Ms Alysha Anderson (Senior Media Advisor Minister for Water).

### **5.3 Meeting with Minister for Water**

The Minister is scheduled to meet with us at 10:00 am. Morning tea will be available at this time. The Minister has to leave at 11:30 am to travel to Muresk to tour the pilot desalination plant.

Ms Michelle Winmar, Centre Coordinator Bilya Koort Boodja Centre, gave a Welcome to Country.

The President welcomed the Minister for Water and his party.

The Minister commented on –

- Commonwealth support has been requested for regenerative agriculture in the Rangelands, for strategic community water supplies that could be brought online in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern, for research into on-farm alternative water supplies and for assistance for horticulture in peri urban areas.
- 18 community water projects have been funded.
- Water Deficient Declarations – 6 in place. Under the declarations the State is required to cart emergency water supplies to these areas; this is an on-going commitment with no cap.
- Commonwealth Government's focus is on the Murray-Darling System.
- The Commonwealth Government recently announced up to \$1m each to 34 local governments in Western Australia as part of their Drought Communities Program. There was no consultation with the State.

In response to the matters listed for discussion the following were noted –

Items (1) and (2)

- The meeting noted that Farm Water Audits rebates were still available. Audits are eligible for 50% rebate up to \$1,000 for an audit.
- The Minister pointed out that the Farm Water Rebates Scheme and Pastoral Water Grant Scheme had been in place since 1996 and that there had not been a lot of uptake in recent times. The Government made a judgement not to subsidise water infrastructure on farms but to fund community water supply improvements in dryland agricultural areas.
- Cr T Sachse pointed out that the State program had provided dollar for dollar funding while the new Federal Government program only provided 25% funding and money had to be spent up front. The State Scheme has been a really good program.

Item (3)

- Cr R Chappel expressed the concern of local government with the 25mm flow rate for fixed standpipes. He commented that it has been a community expectation that they are able to go to a standpipe to obtain water and that even though the Water Corporation has installed tanks to keep up the volume of water available there are concerns as to whether the reduced flow rate will keep up to the capacity of the tanks. He queried as to why commercial rates are charged and suggested that a flat rate be charged. He asked how local government informs their communities of the health guidelines for water standards.
- Mr P Bentley pointed out that locks fitted to standpipes are being cut which exposes local governments to penalties and further costs and that with a 25 mm service it can take up to 20 hours to fill a semi tanker with water.
- Mr A Stewart replied that some water to local government comes from the desalination plant at Binningup and this is high cost water. He is happy to discuss with local governments the best placements of tanks and that the Water Corporation is continuing to work with local governments to find the best solution. He acknowledged that the Water Corporation's engagement on the change to the fixed standpipe arrangements had been with local government officers rather than elected members and that there was discontent in the community. In declared Water Deficient areas local government rates are charged for water from standpipes. In the last few weeks there has been a marked increase in demand for water in the Lake Grace area.
- The Minister indicated that he was happy to continue to talk through the issue with the Water Corporation and the Rural Water Council.

Cr R Sheen left the meeting at 10:44 am.

- Mr J Nuttall commented that the Water Corporation had said no to swipe cards and tanks in the Shire of Mount Marshall and that he is concerned to now find that other local governments are being provided with these.

Item (5)

- Cr T Sachse requested confirmation that the Community Water Supply Grant program will continue.
- The Minister replied that there were no proposals to close this program. He viewed community projects where everyone benefited as giving the 'best bang for your buck'.

Item (6)

- Ms S Broad advised that the Farmlands Project was now in its fourth year. It had initially been a three year program but was extended by two years. Water Corporation has a five year and 20 year capital program in place for pipeline replacements etc.

Mr L Short commented on water used in the mining industry.

Items (8) & (9)

- Mr P Stewart commented on developments within the Shire of Chittering being turned away due to the lack of water and sewerage infrastructure and the effect this has on small communities. He enquired as to what help was available from the Water Corporation. The current requirements of Government policy are onerous.
- The Minister commented that traditionally developers pay for new water and sewerage infrastructure. The Water Corporation paying for new developments would change long standing Government policy. For existing areas the Water Corporation can pay for the infrastructure. Happy to look at with the Water Corporation.

Items (10), (11) & (18)

- Mr L Short referred to Harvest Road's beef cattle development at Koojan, its projected capacity of 100,000 head per year and its water use and queried whether this would affect the availability of water to others.
- Mr A Stewart replied that allocation from the Dinner Hill aquifer of 4.6 GL had been approved in 2018 and that this has been increased to 16.2 GL. Current work being done in the area is due for completion in 2020 and any decision on new allocations will be made once the work is completed.

Items (12) to (16)

- Cr F Johnson commented that the Shire of Gingin sees itself as a food bowl for the Perth metropolitan area and enquired as to whether water can be allocated to encourage high intensity agriculture in the area.
- The Minister replied that the water legislation that he operates under makes no value judgement as to what water is used for. It is a first in first serviced system and if an application is made and water is available it must be granted. People are free to trade water. There is provision that allocations can be lost if not used for three consecutive years. Other than for mines and public water providers, there are no license fees for water licenses in WA.

Item (17)

- Cr F Johnson referred to the need to establish a showcase area to highlight what can be done with less water and thus encourage producers to change.
- The Minister replied that the idea to showcase what can be done could be looked at.
- Mr L Short referred to the 1,100 ha industrial area set aside in Chittering.

Item 18

- Mr J Moynihan advised that the work in the Gingin/Moora was anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020. When the report is released he would be happy to provide a copy to the Rural Water Council.

Item (19)

The Minister indicated that he would look at staff representation from his Office at Rural Water Council meetings.

Drought Assistance

- Cr T Sachse referred to recent announcements around drought assistance and enquired as to what can be done by local governments to highlight the need for assistance in those areas which have not been identified under the Commonwealth Government's criteria.
- The Minister replied that he would be happy to follow up and suggested that the Group prepare a media statement on the issue. He pointed out the need to be clear and sensible and the need for consultation with all stakeholders.

#### Taxing Rainfall

- Cr P Lines referred to a number of US States which have introduced fees based on the amount of stormwater runoff from properties (Rainfall Tax). He enquired if there was any likelihood of rainfall being taxed.
- The Minister replied that people will not have to pay for rainwater. Climate change effects rainfall and this issue needs to be addressed. The State Government has allocated \$30m for a pipeline between Albany and Denmark and \$15m for a water treatment plant in Bunbury. There is a need to assess the impact of seawater intrusion into coastal bores. A desalination plant is likely to be needed in the future at Albany, Water Corporation has estimated \$2b to address.

#### Muresk Desalination Plant

- Cr P Lines referred to the pilot desalination plant at Muresk and asked who runs the plant and who can be contact about it.
- Elise Woods replied that the small scale desalination trial at Muresk was a joint project between the Wheatbelt Development Commission, Murdoch University, Muresk Institute, Water Corporation, Greening Australia and As One Nyitting. It was anticipated that the unit will be officially opened in the next couple of months.

#### Future Water Sources

- Cr R Chappell commented that he was concerned with the environmental impact of the waste brine from desalination plants. He believed that desalination was a short term solution and that it should not be relied on. He believed that there should be more work done in cleaning up catchments to let the water flow; not enough maintenance undertaken.
- The Minister replied that up to 90 potential new water sources have been identified which could come on line, however Commonwealth funding is needed. Currently only 2% of Commonwealth funds for water come to WA. Dams provide Perth with 9% of its water while desalination provides 45%. If it doesn't rain dams are not much use. He did not believe that any new dams will be established for towns in the South-west.
- Ms S Broad commented that part of the Muresk desalination trial was to determine the long term sustainability and environmental impact of the system. She recommended that the Rural Water Council visit the trial site.

#### Water Allocations

- Cr T Gibson referred to farmers in South Australian being required to have a license to take water from their own dams. She pointed out that farmers were doing as much as they can and also expressed concern that big corporations were coming in and taking up water allocations.
- Mr J Moynihan replied that before a water allocation was granted the applicant needed to demonstrate how they will be using the water and conditions can be put on the license.

#### Ord River Pipeline

- Cr P Lines enquired as to the viability of a pipeline from the Ord River.
- The Minister replied that it was not economically viable. It was estimated that water would have to cost around \$25 kL. It was cheaper to desalinate water at \$2 kL.

The President thanked the Minister, Hon Darren West MLC and Hon Laurie Graham MLC for their attendance.

Hon Darren West asked that any further questions be referred through his Office.

The Minister expressed his thanks and emphasised the need to fight hard for funding for water from the Commonwealth.

The Hon Dave Kelly (Minster for Water) and his party, Hon Darren West MLC, Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Ms Elise Woods, Ms Sharon Broad, Mr Peter Bentley and Mr Stuart Taylor left the meeting at 11:29 am.

#### **5.4 Discussion on Outcomes of Meeting with Minister for Water**

Brief discussion on the outcomes of the meeting with the Minister for Water and any follow up actions required to be taken.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Tony Sachse moved and Eileen O'Connell seconded –**

- (1) That the Rural Water Council liaise with the Minister for Water's Office in order to prepare a media statement regarding the lack of transparency in the criteria surrounding the Drought Communities Program; and**
- (2) That the Rural Water Council request the Federal Shadow Minister for Regional Development to ask questions in Parliament regarding the criteria for selection of Western Australian communities to receive assistance under the Drought Communities Program.**

**CARRIED**

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Eileen O'Connell moved and Ross Chappell seconded –**

**That a letter of thanks be sent to the Minister for Water for meeting with the Rural Water Council and discussing water issues in the agricultural region.**

**CARRIED**

Cr E O'Connell requested that if possible Minutes from today's meeting be circulated in time for the February round of Council meetings.

#### **5.5 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>		
Bilya Koort Boodja Centre	Venue Hire (inc tea & coffee) <i>(Note this is an estimate only and final account may vary)</i>	172.50
Lucy's Tea Rooms	Morning Tea	180.00
	<b>TOTAL (including GST)</b>	<b>\$352.50</b>

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$352.50 be passed for payment.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Ross Chappell moved and Eileen O'Connell seconded –**

**That the above accounts as listed above be paid, subject to receipt of final accounts.**

**CARRIED**

##### *Executive Officer's Note:*

*Following the meeting invoices for the above accounts were received –*

<i>Shire of Northam: Bilya Koort Boodja Centre Hire (inc tea and coffee)</i>	<i>\$155.00</i>
<i>Lucy's Tearooms: Morning Tea</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>

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

Mr A Stewart commented -

- Water tanks installed at Lake Grace at Water Corporation cost.
- Minister has indicated that it is not acceptable to isolate standpipes for extended times.
- Water Corporation is carting water to Walpole and Salmon Gums.

Cr T Sachse queried the availability of large diameter standpipes.

Mr A Stewart replied –

- Standpipes need to be managed.
- Community Standpipe - 25mm standpipe with tanks to fill overnight.
- Local Government Standpipe – Can be a 50mm diameter but must be in a secure location.
- High flow firefighting standpipes must be locked off.

- Standpipes fitted with swipe cards – Have the ability to be managed but will be charged at commercial rates if a 50 mm standpipe.

Cr F Johnson left the meeting at 11:48 am.

- There is a gap in the Water Corporation's Standpipe Policy regarding self-carting from standpipes for domestic use. Require feedback from local government to provide opportunity to discuss and to assess the size of the problem.
- Under the terms of the current policy the Water Corporation has no flexibility to deal with local government on a local government to local government basis. Local government is a Water Corporation customer.
- The Farmland Scheme outside of townsites is not classified as potable water.

Ms T Calvert tabled the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report (attached).

Cr R Chappell asked if the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation required a clearing permit when undertaking catchment clean ups. Ms T Calvert replied that the Department did not but it was being sensible in the works undertaken.

Mr J Moynihan encouraged local government to contact Ms T Calvert regarding projects etc.

Ms T Calvert commented on the need for whole of Shire water budgets and that an analysis of the Piawaning desalination project was needed.

Cr D Clarke enquired as whether an analysis had been made comparing the cost of water programs with the cost of maintaining infrastructure. Mr J Moynihan replied that it was still cost effective to cart water.

Cr D Clarke asked at what stage does the State declare a drought. Mr J Moynihan replied that under current policy WA does not declare a drought but rather Water Deficient Areas.

#### RESOLUTION

**Tony Sachse moved and Ross Chappell seconded –**

**That the Rural Water Council writes to the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Development, Member for Durack and the Member for O'Connor regarding the lack of transparency in the criteria surrounding the recent Drought Communities Program announced in January 2020.**

**CARRIED**

## 6 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked delegates and observers for their attendance, drew attention to the next meeting being the Annual General Meeting on 20 March 2020 at the Water Corporation in Northam and declared the meeting closed at 12:18 pm.

#### CERTIFICATION

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

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



## DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION REPORT

### Rural Water Program 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

Under the Government policy relating to the provision of emergency farmland water in dryland agricultural districts, there is provision for the Minister for Water to approve a water deficiency declaration in the event that a localised group of farmers have to travel more than 40 kilometres from the farm gate to cart water for livestock purposes. Under such an arrangement, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation takes responsibility for ensuring that livestock water is provided at a more central point to reduce the distances travelled by farmers and the associated transportation cost. A declaration is a last resort option after all available community water supplies have been exhausted. Water deficiency arrangements are managed by the Department through the Rural Water Planning Program.

Low winter rainfall during 2018 and through the 2019 growing season has resulted in minimal runoff into farm dams in Shires in the southern wheatbelt including Kulin, Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe, Jerramungup and Esperance, which has created an increasing need to cart water for livestock over the summer.

With continued hot and dry conditions in the Great Southern and South Eastern Shires, unsustainable local water supplies and long haulage requirements, Minister Kelly has announced six Water Deficiency Declarations:

- Ravensthorpe Shire (Mount Short area) on the 8 May 2019
- Lake Grace Shire (Mallee Hill area) on the 15 May 2019
- Kent Shire (Hollands Rock area) on the 5 June 2019
- Lake Grace (Ardler Road area) on the 5 December 2019
- Jerramungup Shire (northern area) on the 18 December 2019
- Esperance Shire (Grass Patch) on the 18 December 2019.

The Water Corporation supports the declarations by coordinating the supply and carting of water to central locations (storage tanks) for all declarations.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development continue to closely monitor the status of strategic community supplies and livestock water carting needs of farmers across the Great Southern Shires and in high risk areas. The Rural Water Program encourages long-term water self-sufficiency, and works to optimise the efficient use of all available non-potable water supplies through the following initiatives:

Strategic Community Water Supplies: which are available throughout the dryland agricultural region for emergency livestock water requirements. They are substantial and valuable water supplies that have been established primarily to mitigate major livestock welfare incidents caused by low winter rainfall. The Department is working through a program to upgrade priority sources vested with the Department.

Dry Season infrastructure improvement works undertaken by the Department - approximately \$1.5m  
Projects by Shire: Project works commenced March 2019. This summary is at 15 January 2020 (for complete and committed expenditure (ex GST)).

#### Ravensthorpe Shire

- Mount Short Dam - Included full catchment upgrades, desilting of silt trap and dam as well as installing a new solar power supply.

**Total for Shire: \$45,792**

#### Kent Shire

- Holland's Rock tank - New pipe installation and fittings. Repairs to leaky concrete tank.
- Hamilton's Dam - Included refurbishment and enlargement of dam and silt trap development. Installation of 130 kilolitre tank and solar pump system.
- Chinocup Dam - Included full catchment upgrade and development of silt trap.
- Mindarabin Dam - Includes dam and catchment refurbishment.
- Quartermaines Dam - Completed; includes dam catchment refurbishment.

- Pingrup town Dam -130 kilolitre tank and swipe card system.
  - Kowbrup Dam - Catchment and channel upgrade.
- Total for Shire: \$433,286**

#### Lake Grace Shire

- Lake King Dam - New 130 kilolitre tank and solar system. Water Corporation desilting and overflow channel upgrades December 2019.
  - Tommy Dam - Desilting silt trap, refurbishment and enlargement of dam and catchment upgrade. Installation of new solar pump infrastructure.
  - 14 Mile Dam - Silt trap and catchment completed. Included two silt trap dams and main dam and catchment upgrade.
  - Cuffy's Dam - Included desilting of two adjoining dams. Catchment upgrades and installation of new 250 kilolitre tank and solar power pump system.
  - North Magenta / Ardler Road Dam - Included catchment upgrades and desilting of silt trap. Installation of 250 kilolitre tank and solar power pump infrastructure.
  - Mt Madden Bore - Included bore refurbishment and installation of permanent infrastructure - includes solar pump and 150 kilolitre tank and fittings.
  - Dunn Rock Dam - Includes upgrade of distribution pipework, catchment upgrades, culvert diversions, electric pump repairs, 250 kilolitre tank installation along with solar power pump system on turkey nest.
  - Newman's Dam - Completed; catchment upgraded.
  - Water Corporation establishing an initial standpipe and added a further high flow non-potable standpipe in Newdegate providing additional capacity, which will be available to larger vehicles such as road trains (Water Corporation's tank and standpipe work).
  - Additional standpipe installed at Lake King to assist Water Corporation to cart water (Water Corporation's work).
  - North Varley Community Dam - Dam base to be fixed, main road culvert diversion to dam, catchment construction.
  - Varley Pipehead Dam - Desilt main dam.
- Total for Shire: (not including Water Corporation work): \$631,529**

#### Shire of Jerramungup

- Two new bores were drilled 13 June 2019 and equipped with tanks and solar pumps in the Devils Creek Road and Gairdner district. Assessment and development costs.
  - Bore exploration x 2 sites (Parsons properties).
  - Bore exploration and development x 2 sites near Bremer Bay (Millars Rd + Boxwood Hill).
  - Bore site fit out and commissioning (250 kilolitre tank and solar pump, distribution, vehicle access).
  - Lester Property existing bore 250 kilolitre tank and distribution.
  - Needilup Dam - Catchment preparation for refurbish.
  - Needilup Dam - Catchment full refurbish regrade and shape.
  - Needilup Dam - Tank, solar pump and distribution.
  - Jacup Dam - Catchment enlargement.
- Total for Shire: \$211,939**

#### Shire of Kulin

- Holt Rock Bore - 310 kilolitre Rhino tank on bore to increase storage.
  - Holt Rock Bore - Development and distribution.
- Total for Shire: \$26,908**

#### Shire of Narembeen

- Waterbidden Dam - Dam reconstruction and spillway and truck turnaround.
- Total for Shire: \$60,165**

#### Shire of Gnowangerup

- Hydenup Road Bore and South Formby Road Bore - 2 x new 250 kilolitres tanks and distribution.
- Total for Shire: \$31,640**

#### City of Albany

- Gnowellan Road Bore - New 250 kilolitre tank and distribution.
- Total for Shire: \$15,820**

Sundries

- Water Tank level monitoring x 14 systems: **\$22,120**

Community Water Supply Program (2019/20 Round): \$495,423

Broomehill-Tambellup	\$68,421	Upgrading and installing additional pipelines between dams will maximise the efficient transfer and use of harvested water within the town site and effectively drought proof the town. In particular, the newly sealed 3.57 hectares of CBH catchment for the CBH and Bignell dams which will generate an additional 13.96 megalitres per annum of water for town irrigation and emergency firefighting and livestock water.
Geraldton	\$100,000	Project will improve infrastructure at three strategic non-potable bores located in the Mullewa region. These will be used to provide fit for purpose water for firefighting and rural unsealed roadworks maintenance. At each bore site a 173 kilolitre tank will be installed and fitted with new fast flow solar submersible pumps to improve filling capability.
Pingelly	\$63,094	The project will take advantage of the increased sporting complex carpark/hard surface areas to optimise storm water harvesting. The channelling of crucial storm water to the Realm St Dam will assist in watering the grounds and the Town Oval for longer periods over summer as well as increasing supply for treatment and use on town resources.
West Arthur	\$53,911	Project will reinstate the heritage listed old railway dam (Kylie Dam) to provide a non-potable water supply for firefighting emergency and livestock needs.
<b>Total</b> Round 1: Approved and in process.	<b>\$285,426</b>	

Dumbleyung	\$42,560	Project will upgrade AA dam #401; "Tarin Rock Siding" since being handed vesting of the dam from the water Corporation recently. The project will enhance emergency non-potable livestock water supplies in the Kukerin area of the Shire that is prone to dry conditions and is not connected to the scheme pipeline.
Kulin	\$100,000	Project will construct a new 25,000 cubic metre capacity dam along with an eight hectare roaded catchment. The dam will be located just off the Pingaring-Varley Road, on the outskirts of the Pingaring town to the east that is vulnerable to dry conditions. The new dam will be equipped with a new solar pump and 275 kilolitre capacity tank, along with a standpipe for farmers to easily access the water.
Ravensthorpe	\$67,437	Project will upgrade the Fitzgerald Dam which is located to the eastern border of the Shire. The project will enhance emergency non-potable livestock water supplies in the Ravensthorpe area. The project will provide an extensive refurbishment to the approximate four and a half hectare catchment, with a large solar pump placed on the main dam to enable easy access for farmers and the Ravensthorpe Bush Fire Brigade to the 20,000 kilolitre capacity dam. A small refurbished solar pump on the small 5,000 kilolitre capacity dam will also be fitted with new solar panels and pipe infrastructure to be used as a backup source to fill the tank.
<b>Total</b> Round 2: Approved and in process	<b>\$209,997</b>	

Other projects have been proposed for future funding rounds, including: Corrigin, Esperance. Carnamah, Coorow (primary school P&C), Koorda, Yearling, Trayning and Mukinbudin, Dalwallinu, Plantagenet.

**Rural Water Planning Western Australian funded schemes - payments for the current financial year to December 2019:**

Total expenditure: \$1,914,469.75

**National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme**

A three year Commonwealth Government scheme administered by the Department commenced in May 2019 and will end in June 2021. A rebate of 25 per cent is available for commercial farmers and pastoralists in Western Australia to cover costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water including dam desilting and bore development for animal welfare needs and to improve resilience against stock water deficiency. Farmers can claim a maximum rebate of \$25,000.

In December 2019 the rebate scheme was expanded to include horticulture (permanent plantings, eg orchards). The State Government is in discussions with the Commonwealth Government following a request for increased funding to accommodate the expanded scheme and high level of demand

Status (as of 20/01/2020):

- 471 applications received.
- Total rebate payments applied for. \$2,557,478.04 (estimate, excl GST).
- Commonwealth funding currently allocated to support WA farmers over the life of the scheme is \$4 million (from the \$63 million National scheme fund).