



RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)

Annual General Meeting held at the
Tivoli Room, Cummins Theatre, 31 Bates Street, Merredin
Friday 19 March 2021 commencing at 10.03 am

Minutes

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The President, Mr L Short, welcomed delegates, declared the meeting open and introduced Cr Julie Flockart, President Shire of Merredin. Cr Flockart welcomed delegates to Merredin and commented on –

- The meeting at Merredin was originally scheduled for July 2020 but due to COVID-19 restrictions it was deferred to now.
- Merredin water profile –
 - The town has issues with both surface and subsurface water.
 - A reduction in rainfall since 2000 has impacted the area.
 - Merredin is in a valley and is influenced by catchments to the north, east and to a lesser extent to the south of the town.
 - The town is serviced by five dams, three of which are interconnected.
 - Water is harvested from the town, Cohn Creek, CBH site, and surrounding catchment. This water is used to make up a shortfall of water from the scheme for irrigation, construction and roadworks.
 - Groundwater is saline.
 - 10 year community management plan developed which recognises long term potable and non-potable water supplies.
 - A trial on a 20,000 kL dam, non-potable water. Visually it seems to have made a difference but no data as yet.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr Lawrie Short	President
Cr Lindsay Hagboom	Shire of Dowerin (from 10:43 am)
Cr Frank Johnson	Shire of Gingin
Mr Darren Simmons	Shire of Koorda (via Video)
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Len Armstrong	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin
Cr Romolo Patroni	Shire of Merredin
Mr Mark Dacombe	Shire of Merredin
Cr Julie Thomas	Shire of Moora (via Video)
Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall (Deputy President)
Mr John Nuttall	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Peter Lines	Shire of Narembeen
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Mr Leonard Long	Shire of Nungarin
Mr John Flockart	Flockart Drilling, Merredin
Mr Ed Fletcher	Gingin Water Group (from 10:46 am)
Mr Norm Smith	
Ka Teoh	Narembeen
Ms Tracey Calvert	Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (via Video)
Mr Rob Cossart	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Ms Rennee Manning	Wheatbelt Development Commission, Merredin
Ms Rebecca Kelly	Wheatbelt Development Commission, Moora
Mr Michael Roberts	Water Corporation
Mr Anthony Bodycoat	Water Corporation
Mr Richard George	Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Cr Rodney Sheen	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Clarke	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Tanya Gibson	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin
Ms Suzie Hazlehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Craig Stewart	Toodyay Agriculture Alliance

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Julie Thomas declared her interest in Water Corporation activities as her husband is an employee of the Water Corporation.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Annual General Meeting 20 March 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by teleconference on 20 March 2020 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members and delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 20 March 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Frank Johnson moved and Tony Sachse seconded –

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 20 March 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

(b) General Meeting 16 October 2020

Minutes of the General Meeting held by video conference on 16 October 2020 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 16 October 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Len Armstrong moved and Peter Lines seconded –

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 16 October 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Participation by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Item 5.2(a))

The October meeting noted that invitations had once again been to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for a representative of Agriculture and Food to attend Rural Water Council meetings. No response has been received. **NOTED**

(b) Expanding Stakeholder Base (Item 8.1)

The October meeting requested that invitation be sent to farm improvement groups within the region to attend as observers this meeting. Members were requested to advise the Executive Officer of any groups active within their area.

No information was received from members as to groups active in the region and due to pressure of other work the Executive Officer was not able to fully follow up.

Following discussion with the President he has contacted –

- FACEY Group
- Far East Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)
- LIEBE Group
- Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mortlock Ag Focus Group
- Toodyay Agriculture Alliance
- West Midlands Group

The Liebe Group and the Toodyay Agricultural Alliance have requested further information for their consideration.

NOTED

(c) Bank Signatories (Item 8.3)

The October meeting noted the advice that the Group's bank signatories were not current. A new authority has been completed and lodged with the bank.

NOTED

(d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

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 Chappel moved and Tony Sachse 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 2020 (attached).

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2020, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Tony Sachse moved and Frank Johnson seconded –

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2020, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED

8 ELECTIONS

Our Rules provide that Executive Committee members hold office for two years and are elected at the Annual General Meeting held following the biennial Western Australian local government elections (due October 2021). As such there are no elections to be held this year.

NOTED

9 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES & BUDGET

9.1 Membership Fees 2021

Consideration of membership fees for 2021. Last year membership fees were –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00

RECOMMENDATION

That membership fees for 2021 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

RESOLUTION

Tony Sachse moved and Peter Lines seconded –

That membership fees for 2021 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

CARRIED

9.2 Budget 2021

Consideration of the Group's Budget for 2021. Draft Budget for the year ending 31 December 2021 is attached.

Notes on the draft budget –

Receipts

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

Payments

- Allocation for Secretarial Service costs have been increased over last year due to costs for the period July to December 2020 not being paid until 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2021, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Frank Johnson moved and Ross Chappell seconded –

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2021, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED

10 MATTERS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There were no motions of which notice has been given.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Application for Membership

There are no applications for membership.

11.2 Water Corporation Reports

Presentation of the Water Corporation report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Corporation Report be received.

Mr M Roberts presented the Water Corporation report (attached).

Cr P Lines referred to water outages and commented that it was very frustrating not to be able to easily find any information, on the internet or elsewhere, on times of outages either due to maintenance or accident. He enquired if there were any strategies in place. Mr Roberts replied that leaks were tracked from the time of a burst to when fixed; for farmland there was an expectation of two days of storage; crews were on standby 24/7 and there is an interactive map on the Water Corporation's website (Outages & Works).

Cr T Sachse enquired on progress with the development of smart water meters. Mr Roberts replied that smart meters have been installed at properties in Kalgoorlie. An issue has been the managing of data from the meters back to the network.

Cr P Lines referred to foreign companies buying and selling water on the Darling River and enquired if there were any instances in Western Australia. Mr Roberts replied that water was managed by the State and that a challenge was the water source (eg desalination).

Mr L Long asked if there were any private water schemes in WA towns. Mr A Bodycoat replied that North Dandalup has a private water scheme and that all providers have to be licensed.

Cr J Flockart referred to the Farmland Project Stage 5 and asked as to progress of the work and when is it expected to be completed. Mr Roberts replied that he would make enquires and report back.

Cr T Sachse enquired as to the use of renewable energy in desalination plants. Mr Roberts replied that the Water Corporation was one of the biggest users of desalination and was focused on reducing greenhouse emissions. Mr A Bodycoat commented that for the Binningup desalination plant agreements were in place to use energy from wind and solar farms near Geraldton.

Cr J Flockart requested advice on the percentage of local jobs used on the Farmland project.

Mr L Short referred to the old railway dam at Koojan and commented that it was in a poor state of repair and was used for fire and spray water. He asked if it could be assessed. Ms T Calvert replied that she will address the issue in an update.

RESOLUTION

**Frank Johnson moved and Gary Coumbe seconded –
That the Water Corporation Report be received**

CARRIED

11.3 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report

Presentation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation report.

At the October meeting Mr Lawrie Short asked -

- Will there be any impact on water volumes available to "Farmland" project areas given increasing use of water to mining projects, such as the Lithium mine near Moorine Rock?
- Given the possible increase in construction activity relevant to "Tier 3" rail and the subject upgrades on say the Kondinin to Merredin line (estimate \$200 m, subject to approval) will there be provision to supply any water required at actual cost price of say \$10/ kilo litre? Will this charge be applied to any other projects that receive either State or Federal funding? Such as roadworks or wheat silos etc that may require on site concrete batching or offsite plants?

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Swan Avon Region, has provided the following response:

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd has proposed to develop a pegmatite-hosted lithium deposit at the abandoned Mt Holland gold mine Site. The proposal area is located approximately 105 kilometres south-southeast of Southern Cross, in the Shire of Yilgarn. The proposal is for conventional open-cut mining of the existing Earl Grey pit, and development of associated mine infrastructure. The new mining proposal would utilise some existing infrastructure and disturbed areas.

They are still in the approvals stage and we don't have any water licence applications from them, so cannot comment on licences or offsite impacts on farms from take. Noting that this has been an active mine (not Lithium though) for an extended period of time, in the past. Impacts on farms could occur if water was being taken and depleting available groundwater on neighbouring properties. Just an FYI, mining companies have to complete an operating strategy to demonstrate and monitor impacts on neighbouring bores and if there is a draw down impact they have to have a method of managing it. Our aim is for no impacts. RIWI ensures that the assessment of applications takes such impacts into account in the licence assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Ms T Calvert presented the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Rural Planning Update (attached).

Cr L Hagboom entered the meeting at 10:43 am.

Mr E Fletcher entered the meeting at 10:46 am.

Ms T Calvert commented on –

- Third year of dry conditions in the Wheatbelt, particularly the South and South-east.
- Do not think that the on-farm water scheme will be extended for Western Australia.
- The Community Water Supply program 2020/21 Round should be completed by June, although the second project for the Shire of Wyalkatchem may be carried forward.
- Funding for a new project to desilt dam and cleanup 1 km of drainage at Burngup Railway Dam at Lake Grace.
- \$7.3 m funding for the Agricultural Area Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies allocated through the Federal Government's National Water Grid Fund; funding includes \$3.65 m matching contribution from the State Government –
 - Project runs for four years.
 - Project to upgrade 70 agricultural dams or facilities across the Wheatbelt.
 - Dams identified from a 2015 report which looked at 415 dams and their level of degradation through silting. 90 sites were identified which was cut back to 70 for the project.
 - Work will commence in July 2021.

- Some sites will need assessment and following discussions with Local Governments maybe able to shift sites according to priority.
 - Some of the sites are vested with the Water Corporation and discussion needed.
- Bids for funds for projects under the Community Water Supply Program.

Cr T Sachse commented that the \$7.3 m through the National Water Grid Fund was a great initiative. He asked if there was still a chance of funding for new applications for 2021/2022 under the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. Ms Calvert replied that the formal funding agreement between the Federal and State Governments still needs to be signed; the scheme was oversubscribed and there are 511 farmers in the queue with applications already submitted for additional funding and a response from the Minister is being sought.

Mr J Nuttall commented that the Shire of Mount Marshall had been waiting for 2½ years for approvals for installation of tanks due to native title issues. He also asked if local governments could be notified if contractors can be utilised by local governments to do work on dams. Ms Calvert replied that an answer should be given in the next couple of weeks once the new State Government settles in.

Mr L Short referred to works tapping into superficial water in the Minyulo Brook/Dandaraga Spring area. Locals are concerned at what is happening. Ms Calvert replied that this is a regional matter and will refer this the regional office.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Peter Lines seconded –

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

CARRIED

Ms Tracey Calvert left the meeting at 11:04 am.

11.4 District Reports

Mount Marshall (Tony Sachse)

2021 has seen very significant rainfall events within the Shire, especially in early February and early March. As a consequence, surface water flows have filled dams in most parts. As well the rainfall will mean the 2021 crop and pasture production will have subsoil moisture available during the year. Some summer fodder crops have been planted and a few farmers are considering such things as long season wheat and canola plantings.

The Shire of Mount Marshall are very supportive that the Minister for Water, the Hon Dave Kelly BA MLA, that the State Government has announced a \$7.3 million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern. The project will help with drought mitigation with the supply of non-potable water. The media statement (link attached below) also states that the State and Commonwealth have agreed on the funding of outstanding applicants for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. This means that the 511 previously unfunded applicants will now receive their funds. However, the media statement link below is silent on new applications for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. It seems that there is more funding available but in a radio interview Minister Dave Kelly (DWER) has said that further matching State funds for this grant scheme need to wait until the new 2021/2022 State budget. This means that new applicants in WA would be uncertain of receiving any grant funding but more clarification on this would be beneficial for applicants.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2021/02/McGowan-Government-announces-funding-to-help-WA-farmers-deal-with-impacts-of-climate-change.aspx>

The Shire of Mount Marshall is also supportive of the announcement by the Minister for Regional Development and Food, the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, of the new \$1.5 million Watersmart Farms Project for on farm desalination research. The media statement link below comments on the development and adoption of innovative and sustainable water supply options, which is very encouraging.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2021/02/Watersmart-Farms-funding-to-drive-on-farm-desalination.aspx>

Insofar as recreation is concerned, the level of Lake McDermott has declined, but will continue to be enjoyed for some recreational activities. The lake has been very popular since the February 2020 floods. The lake has seen an influx of waterbirds over this period, and is still very popular with birding enthusiasts and other campers. The Lake McDermott Catchment Group have built a solar powered shelter and installed barbeques and tables at the lake. This has been achieved with funding grants from the Shire of Mount Marshall and other sources', and with community input.

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

Rainfall for 2020 180 mm with less south of Lake Grace, the eastern end of the fared better with later rains towards the end of the year helping crop yields but not stock water. There has been a fair bit of destocking in the area and carting water has been full on for most.

Rainfall to date for 2021 - February 23 mm; March 42.5 mm. In a strip north of Lake Grace some have received double that for March.

The rainfall for March has given a small reprieve to water carting but without follow up rains this is going to be short lived. Some farmers have had every dam dry on their farms, even our key dams in the district have been emptied - Dingo Rock, 14 Mile and Tommies Dams, these are on the western end of the Shire. The backup for these dams has been water out of the town dam. At one stage Water Corporation were carting extra water into Lake Grace town supply to maintain supply to the town.

Well done to the Department of Water and Water Corporation in having dams and catchments desilted and cleaned up. There have even been some farmers who don't have stock any more who have desilted their dams and cleaned up catchments. All we need now is for bigger rain events to get the water running.

RECOMMENDATION

That District Reports be received.

RESOLUTION

**Frank Johnon moved and Ross Chappell seconded –
That District Reports be received.**

CARRIED

11.5 Finance Report

There has been no activity in the Groups accounts for the period 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021. The Group's current cash balance is \$3,073.26.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

11.6 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 July 2020 to March 2021	1,843.82
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u>\$1,843.82</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,843.82 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Ross Chappell moved and Frank Johnson seconded –
That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,843.82 be passed for payment.**

CARRIED

11.7 Membership Renewal

Mr David Smith has advised that after careful and lengthy consideration, he has decided not to renew his membership of the Rural Water Council. He commented that he had really enjoyed his time with the Group (both as a Councillor and private) and discussing the many topics we covered.

He requested that his best wishes be conveyed to the Group and urged the Group to keep the pressure on whichever Government is leading us after the election.

To date the Shires of Dandaragan, Koorda and Victoria Plains have not renewed their membership for 2020.

NOTED

11.8 Other

No other matters were brought forward.

12 GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr Anthony Bodycoat, Water Corporation, and Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, gave a presentation on their findings on the Muresk Reverse Osmosis Farm Water Supply Micro-Trial Project and other water source initiatives.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 2 July 2021 – Northam
- Friday 15 October 2020 - Northam.

CONSENSUS RESOLUTION

That the next meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 2 July 2021 at the Water Corporation in Northam.

CARRIED

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked delegates and observers for their attendance, the Shire of Merredin for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:10 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

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

ANNUAL REPORT

The difficulties of 2020/2021 will long remain in our memories. Fortunately, there has been support from both State and Federal levels of Government: -

- State Government extension of Water Deficiency funding, including areas such as Cascades and Jerramungup surrounding areas, even to Salmon Gums. Trust this will continue.
- Given the current good prices for cattle, sheep (wool had some fluctuations) and lambs it is pleasing to see the continuing upgrade of rock catchment areas for spray and stock use. One situation experienced by my son in North Miling has been the provision of lambs to a farmer in the Merredin area who had good summer rains in 2020 against Watheroo missing out, hence sale of sucker lambs when outlook was not good for the season.
- Though we are all experiencing reduced rainfall the advent of improved cropping varieties means the coastal plains is seeing increased cropping, as rains are relatively reliable. New species are seeing good returns in areas once classified as "yellow sandplain" of low economic returns.
- With the Water Corporation, as our supporting Agency, it is evident they have to continuously present evidence of their good business practice, they are to be congratulated on their perseverance with the Farmland Project, which attracted funding for an extension.
- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is also to be congratulated on their works program continuing to bring on their renovation of various rock catchment areas across the Wheatbelt. I also observe that their controls over the use of superficial waters in the Gingin Brook area is showing good results though I would also like to see it noted that there appears to be some apparent uncontrolled (or sanctioned) works in the Minyulo Brook-Dandaraga Spring tributary area that would have such a draw on the supply of riparian rights as to cause great distress.

In summary it is extremely gratifying to see that with the 3,000 units (family units through to larger corporate structures) involved in this year's WA crop of some 16.7 m tonnes, showing a return of \$6 Bn to the economy, I believe due in part to better farming practices, better grain varieties with increased assistance through all Agencies, industry agronomists and service industries.

Lawrie Short
President

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		Actual	Estimate
		<u>For Year</u>	<u>For Year</u>
RECEIPTS			
Membership			
Associations 14 @ \$300	4,200.00		5,400
Individuals 2 @ \$150	300.00		450
Part Year 2019 2 @ \$67.00	<u>134.00</u>	4,634.00	134
Interest Earned		<u>1.24</u>	2
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$4,635.24</u>	5,986
PAYMENTS			
Meeting Expenses			
Special Meeting	305.00		305
Teleconference	<u>189.38</u>	494.38	300
Bank Fees		12.00	0
Secretarial Service		<u>3,371.20</u>	5,000
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>\$3,877.58</u>	5,605
CASH SUMMARY			
Opening Balance		2,315.60	2,316
Plus Receipts		<u>4,635.24</u>	5,986
		6,950.84	8,302
Less Payments		<u>3,877.58</u>	5,605
Closing Balance		<u>\$3,073.26</u>	2,697
BANK RECONCILIATION			
Cheque Account Balance (as at 31/12/2020) (Westpac)		3,073.26	
Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement		<u>0.00</u>	
		3,073.26	
Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement		<u>0.00</u>	
Balance as per Cash Book		<u>\$3,073.26</u>	



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Robert Dew
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

RECEIPTS	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual Last Year</u>
Membership:		
Associations 16 @ \$300	4,800	4,200
Individuals 2 @ \$150	300	300
Part Year 2019	<u>0</u>	<u>134</u>
Interest Earned	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><u>\$5,100</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,635</u></u>
PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses	200	494
Bank Fees	0	12
Secretarial Service	<u>5,000</u>	<u>3,371</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><u>\$5,200</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,878</u></u>
CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	3,073	2,316
Plus Receipts	<u>5,100</u>	<u>4,635</u>
	8,173	6,951
Less Payments	<u>5,200</u>	<u>3,878</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$2,973</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,073</u></u>

REPORTS

WATER CORPORATION

Farmlands Project

Stage 4

- Most of the work is complete, 2 sites however were delayed due to the rain:
 - Trayning - 1 section of pipe totalling Approx. 1600 m to be replaced on KN Main (a section across the Salt Lake has been deferred to dryer weather due to water table constraints).
 - 1 site had been delayed across the Avon River due to weather (Toodyay).
- A couple of smaller sites on the CK main (ready for tender) are to be awarded to utilise remaining funds.
- Total budget to end of FY 2021 of \$4.6 M.

Stage 5

- All complete bar 1 section remaining, to be constructed with Merredin Tank as it is on the same site.
- Total budget to end of FY 2021 of \$5.1 M (\$5 M spent to date).

Stage 6

- 4 Packages equalling 16 sites.
- 2 have been awarded, remaining 2 this week.
- Site locations are Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, Southern Cross (Yilgarn) and Kellerberrin.
- Completion expected June 2021.
- Total Budget \$3 m.

Stage 7

- Design Complete expected to go to Tender in May/June for Construction July 2021.
- To Include KN Main, Trayning – LD main Kellerberrin and various 'stand-alone' sites TBC when prioritised.
- 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 m (TBC).

Small Dams Project

- Water Corporation currently owns or manages a significant number of land parcels throughout the Wheatbelt that contain small dams no longer required for drinking water supply purposes.
- These dams have effectively become community water sources primarily utilised for firefighting, road building, agricultural and/or drought relief purposes.
- Water Corporation is progressively contacting Local Governments throughout the Wheatbelt to discuss their interest in accepting the transfer of any surplus small dams in their district.
- If Shires are interested in taking over dams in their district, the Water Corporation will perform the necessary paperwork and liaise with DPLH to affect the transfer of the land and assets.
- Contact Water Corporation's Property Portfolio Team (David Morgan – 9420 2640) for further detail.

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

Under the Government policy relating to the provision of emergency farmland water in dryland agricultural districts, there is provision for the Minister for Water (with endorsement from the Minister for Agriculture) to approve a water deficiency declaration in the event that a localised group of farmers have to travel more than 40 km from the farm gate to cart water for livestock purposes. Under such an arrangement, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations 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 of Water and Environmental Regulations through the Rural Water Planning Program.

Low winter rainfall during 2018, 2019 growing season and into 2020/21 has resulted in minimal runoff into farm dams in Shires in the southern and south eastern wheatbelt area which has created an increasing need to cart water for livestock drinking water.

Water Deficiency Declarations (WDD) have been announced in the following areas:

- Mount Short area of the Shire of Ravensthorpe on 8 May 2019;
- Mallee Hill area of the Shire of Lake Grace on 15 May 2019;
- Hollands Rock area of the Shire of Kent on 5 June 2019;
- Ardler Road area of the Shire of Lake Grace on 5 December 2019;
- the northern area of the Shire of Jerramungup on 18 December 2019;
- the Grass Patch area of the Shire of Esperance on 18 December 2019;
- Jerramungup (east) and Ravensthorpe (west) on 13 February 2020;
- the Kukerin area of Dumbleyung Shire on the 21 February 2020;
- the Hamilton's dam area of Kent Shire on the 21 February 2020;
- the Salmon Gums area of the Shire of Esperance declared 6 March 2020;
- the Gairdner area of the Shire of Jerramungup declared 11 June 2020 and
- the Cascade area of the Esperance Shire on 16 June 2020.

The WDD in the Gairdner area of the Jerramungup Shire was revoked following high rainfall on 3rd August 2020 (up to 100 mm) which resulted in good runoff in on-farm and off-farm dams.

While there has not been enough rainfall to revoke/cancel the remaining 10 WDD's we have been able to wind back on water carting at all sites except Grass Patch in Esperance as on-farm and off-farm strategic supplies are currently meeting livestock water needs.

National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

High Uptake of Scheme -

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • Total number of applications received since the Scheme opened | 1 447 |
| • Total number of applications approved and paid since the Scheme opened | 936 |
| • Number of applications received and in the queue before 2 October 2020 | 447 |
| • Number of applications received and in the queue from 3 October 2020 to 20 January 2021 when scheme closed/no more applications accepted | 64 |

Total funds disbursed \$5.120 Million.

The Western Australian Government has reached an agreement with the Federal Government to provide funding to farmers who applied under the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. Due to significant demand the scheme was oversubscribed, and the previous funding was fully allocated. The additional funding provided through this agreement will see a further 511 farmers with applications already submitted receive a rebate for water infrastructure installed on their farm.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is working with the Federal Government on the formal funding agreement, and when in place, the department will contact the affected farmers directly to provide further information on the assessment and payment of grants.

Community Water Supply program 2020/21 Round - In Progress

The Shire of Merredin	\$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 will be 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.
The Shire of Mukinbudin	\$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.
The Shire of Wyalkatchem	\$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 will include channel reconstruction and realignment to optimise runoff into the dam.
The Shire of Wyalkatchem	\$79,759	This project component aims to also address poor catchment drainage issues including flooding in sections of the 112,840 square metre Flint Road and Gamble Street catchment 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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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 with 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	\$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	\$100,000	<p>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.</p>
Total	\$926,656	

2020/21 Works Program (as at 8 February 2021)

Status of works	Sum of expenditure \$ excl gst
Completed projects	\$59,196.86
Works started	\$107,198.87
Plan in progress	\$533,791.98
To be planned	\$5,000.00
Totals	\$705,187.71

Local Government Area	Number Complete projects	Value \$ excl gst works completed	Value \$ excl gst works started	Value \$ excl gst plan in progress	Value \$ excl gst to be planned	Value \$ excl gst total by shire
Dumbleyung	0		\$18,491.27	\$53,000.00		\$71,491.27
Esperance	0		\$26,999.00	\$6,000.00		\$32,999.00
Gnowangerup	0			\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Jerramungup	3	\$26,633.63	\$14,409.10	\$92,380.00		\$133,422.73
Kent	1	\$107.00	\$1,752.00			\$1,859.00
Kondinin	1	\$1,208.13		\$74,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$80,208.13
Kulin	1	\$18,114.00		\$111,392.00		\$129,506.00
Lake Grace	4	\$8,871.20		\$120,251.98		\$129,123.18
Mukinbudin	0			\$43,980.00		\$43,980.00
Narembeen	1	\$3,132.90				\$3,132.90
Ravensthorpe	1	\$740.00	\$1,047.50	\$8,000.00		\$9,787.50
various sites	1	\$390.00	\$44,500.00	\$4,788.00		\$49,678.00
Total by status	12	\$59,196.86	\$107,198.87	\$533,791.98	\$5,000.00	\$705,187.71