



Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)
 Meeting held in the Water Corporation Office, Conference Room
 2 Cubbine Street, Cunderdin
 Friday 8 July 2022 commencing at 10:09 am

Minutes

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The President and Chair of the meeting, Cr T Sachse, welcomed delegates and representatives, delivered an acknowledgment to country and declared the meeting open.

Mr Lance Christopherson, Water Corporation, gave a site induction.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall (President)
Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Shire of Chittering (via video)
Cr Alison Harris	Shire of Cunderdin
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace (Deputy President) (via video)
Cr Len Armstrong	Shire of Lake Grace (via video)
Mr Alan George	Shire of Lake Grace (via video)
Cr Chris Bray	Shire of Narembeen
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin (via video)
Mr Dean Mastin	Shire of Quairading
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay (via video)
Cr Mark Crees	Shire of Westonia
Cr Ross Della Bosca	Shire of Westonia
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains (via video)
Cr Gary O'Brien	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (via video)
Ms Sinead McGuire	Shire of York (via video)
Mr Lawrie Short	
Ms Tracy Calvert	Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (via video)
Mr Anthony Bodycoat	Water Corporation
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region (via video)
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr Stuart Hobley	Shire of Cunderdin
Mr Peter Clarke	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Darren Simmons	Shire of Koorda
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin
Shire of Moora	
Cr Tanya Gibson	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Quentin Davies	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Mr Norm Smith	
Ms Renee Manning	Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin DeGrussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held at Merredin on 18 March 2022 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members and delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the meeting held 18 March 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Eileen O'Connell moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That the Minutes of the meeting held 18 March 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.
CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

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

The October and March meetings requested that invitations be sent to farm improvement groups within the region to attend meetings of the Rural Water Council. Members were requested to advise the Executive Officer of any groups active within their area, however to date no information has been received. At the March Meeting it was suggested that the Grower Group Alliance be approached.

At its June meeting the Executive Committee considered whether the objects of the Grower Group Alliance aligned with the purposes of the Rural Water Council and whether an invitation should be made to the Alliance. The Executive Committee expressed the view the objects of the Grower Group Alliance and other farm improvement groups did not fit well with the purposes of the Rural Water Council and recommended that invitations not be made. However, the Executive Committee felt that catchment groups and the like be followed up.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the recommendation of the Executive Committee that invitations to attend meetings not be made to Farm Improvement Groups be adopted.
- (b) That delegates advise the Executive Officer of any active Catchment Groups within their districts and that invitations be made to those Groups.

The Executive Officer draw attention to the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and enquired if the meeting felt an invitation to the Drought Hub to be appropriate.

Cr R Madacsi advised that she had spoken with Cr Frank Johnson regarding the Shire of Gingin re-joining the Group. It seems that the Shire is interested in doing so and the matter is going to Council for consideration.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

- (a) That the recommendation of the Executive Committee that invitations to attend meetings not be made to Farm Improvement Groups be adopted.**
- (b) That delegates advise the Executive Officer of any active Catchment Groups within their districts and that invitations be made to those Groups.**

CARRIED

The meeting noted that although no formal invitations would be extended to Farm Improvement Groups they would be welcome to participate in the Group.

The meeting requested that Mr Mark Holland, Director, South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, be invited a meeting of the Group.

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

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 they had sent the enquiry through to the Swan-Avon Region but it may need to go to the Geraldton office.

Following the last meeting the Department requested further information. This request was passed on to Mr Lawrie Short, however to date he has been unsuccessful in contacting the Department.

RECOMMENDATION

For Information

Mr L Short agreed to follow up.

(c) Recognition of Water Issues Specific to the Western Wheatbelt (Item 10.1)

The March Meeting resolved 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.

At its June meeting, the Executive Committee considered how to best address issues specific to the Western Wheatbelt. The Committee agreed that these issues continue to be taken into account as a priority and recommended –

- That an invitation be extended to the Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin to attend the Group's October meeting with a view to discussing any water issues from their areas.
- That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be invited to the October meeting to discuss approvals for water allocation and usage in the Western Wheatbelt.
- That Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, be invited to the October meeting (i) to give an update on his presentation to the March 2021 meeting on farm water desalination and other water source initiatives; and (ii) to provide an update on any specific water issues affecting the Western Wheatbelt (eg sandplain - Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin, metamorphic rock - Shires of Chittering and Toodyay).

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That an invitation be extended to the Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin to attend the Group's October meeting with a view to discussing any water issues from their areas.
- (b) That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be invited to the October meeting to discuss approvals for water allocation and usage in the Western Wheatbelt.
- (c) That Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, be invited to the October meeting (i) to give an update on his presentation to the March 2021 meeting on farm water desalination and other water source initiatives; and (ii) to provide an update on any specific water issues affecting the Western Wheatbelt (eg sandplain - Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin, metamorphic rock - Shires of Chittering and Toodyay)

Ms T Calvert requested that an invitation to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation include reference to the specific areas so that the correct personnel can attend.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Pauline Bantock seconded –

- (a) That in invitation be extended to the Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin to attend the Group's October meeting with a view to discussing any water issues from their areas.
- (b) That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be invited to the October meeting to discuss approvals for water allocation and usage in the Western Wheatbelt.
- (c) That Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, be invited to the October meeting (i) to give an update on his presentation to the March 2021 meeting on farm water desalination and other water source initiatives; and (ii) to provide an update on any specific water issues affecting the Western Wheatbelt (eg sandplain - Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin, metamorphic rock - Shires of Chittering and Toodyay)

CARRIED

- (d) Energy and Power Outages (Item 11.7)

The March Meeting referred for discussion by the Executive Committee the supply of energy and power and the effect of outages on water supply.

The June meeting of the Executive Committee considered the matter and requested the Water Corporation to quantify the effect of power outages on water supply.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

Mr T Bodycoat commented –

- Every town has a different level of service.
- Generally elevated tanks are provided in towns to give a buffer for power outages.
- Incidents which take out power can also take out water infrastructure not necessarily just pipelines.
- Measures such as backup generators are in place for towns if the power goes out.
- For towns the Water Corporation carts water and supplies bottled water were necessary.
- Farmland services and services by agreement require two days water is to be stored on site as the Water Corporation cannot guarantee water supply during power outages.
- Waste water is dependent on power.
- Happy to follow up any specific incidents.

- (e) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Water Corporation Report

Presentation of the Water Corporation's report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Corporation's report be received.

Mr A Bodycoat presented the Water Corporation's report.

Cr R Della Bosca asked if a list of dams can be provided. Mr Bodycoat replied that he will circulate.

At this time **Item 6.4 Members of Parliament** was brought forward.

Hon Steve Martin MLC commented on the review of Water legislation. He suggested that the Group request a briefing from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation as to what is intended under the new legislation and who pays for what. He pointed out that once the legislation gets into Parliament it will be too late to amend.

Cr R Madacsi asked what Water acts were being reviewed. Hon S Martin replied that six water resource management Acts were being consolidated into one; some of these acts are quite old and terminology is to be modernised, but he is concerned as to what this means.

The Chair thanked Hon S Martin for his input.

Hon S Martin MLC and Cr R Madacsi left the meeting at 10:53 am.

Discussion on **Item 6.1 Water Corporation Report** was resumed.

Mr L Short requested clarification on comment that there were 40 desalination plants on farms. He thought that Mr Richard George in his presentation to the March 2021 meeting had referred to 1,100 in the Wheatbelt. Mr Bodycoat replied that he believed Mr George's comment referred to roaded catchments. He would follow up with Mr Nick Callow, University of WA, for a report to the October meeting.

Mr L Short asked if the new water legislation would affect how the Water Corporation operates. Mr Bodycoat replied that he was not privy to this information.

RESOLUTION

**Mark Crees moved and Lawrie Short seconded –
That the Water Corporation's report be received.**

CARRIED

6.2 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Cr T Sachse referred to the cost of reroofing the AA tank in Mukinbudin compared to the tension net system being trialled by the Shire of Perenjori. Ms Calvert replied that the Shire of Perenjori has put out a tender for the netting option and is waiting to see what will come in. Once costs are known it will guide future works.

RESOLUTION

**Mark Crees moved and Ross Della Bosca seconded –
That the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's report (as attached) be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 Region Reports

Presentation by delegates of region reports.

Dandaragan & North Miling (Lawrie Short)

Having experienced a very hot Summer with follow up rains probably 150 mm at times over both places. The affect at Dandaragan has been to invigorate the perennials, particularly as they were mowed and baled pre rains as their hay is valued by the equestrian fraternity.

The Dandaragan soils are sandy loam with good undulating Redgums, Blackbutt on higher landform and York gum in clay gravel and Eucalyptus rudis in wet lands down stream of well flowing springs. The North Miling soils have a higher clay horizon probably at average 1.5 m depth in slightly undulating yellow loamy sands (some Conifer spp) with swale lakes appearing after recent Autumn rains and one historical permanent lake for domestic and orchard use.

Seeding went well at North Miling with only one sandy bog of the big Johnny reported to me. Last season lambs have sold well, with a good drop this year, I saw about 30 sets of twins in one small mob. All spraying and spreading finished and we have the dogs (2) as boarders for the next two weeks as the call of Shark Bay and fishing spots South of there has meant the family had to answer the call.

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

Rainfall -

February	3.5 mm		
March	40 mm	43.5 mm	The bulk of that coming at the end of March
April	4 mm	47.5 mm	
May	47 mm	90.5 mm	From mid may onwards
June	61 mm	151 mm	From the 9 th onwards

Since the March report we ended up with good rain in the second half of March which was good for those that had started seeding but by early May it had started to get fairly dry especially if you were seeding into pasture paddocks. Most people had finished seeding by the end of May with a few that finished up early June. The cereal crops seem to have germinated well but some canola not so well with that dry spell. The crops seem to be progressing quite well at the moment with the good rains through June but there are quite a few wet patches with boom spray operators cautious were they go.

The early morning temperatures have dropped down 1 & 2 degrees and some of the day time to 12 to 16 degrees.

There was a good germination of green feed for stock but that also struggled with the dry spell. It seems to have recovered now, perfect if you are lambing at the moment.

Not a lot of natural run off of water but cleaned up catchments will be running water.

We had a couple of twisters go through one on Sunday 22 and Monday 23 May. They did some structural damage on farms and up rooted trees and there were some reports of heavy rain anything up to 40 mm.

Shire

Preparing for this year's budget but also trying to get projects finished. As with all Shires and businesses the short supply of materials and labour is drawing out the finishing time for many of them. The moisture has been good for getting roads graded and re-sheeting done.

The CEO is still working with the Department of Water to capture more water and upgrade tanks etc. CBH are looking at another big harvest, may be another 20 million tonnes, and have already approached the Shire in regards to extra storage sites. As Lake Grace has a fast turnaround for loading trains a lot of grain has been trucked into Lake Grace especially from the Newdegate Field Day site as the Field Day fast approaches. The Newdegate community are also busy preparing for their 100 years celebrations being held 24 to the 26 September.

Lake Grace Football Club hosted this year's BIG FREEZE event when they played Boxwood Hills on 28 May; once again well supported. Then on Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June Lake Grace hosted the Great Southern Football Carnival (Colts Carnival) celebrating it's 100 Years and Saturday 6 August the Lake Grace Football Club will celebrate 100 Years when they play their old rivals Newdegate.

Mount Marshall (Tony Sachse)

At the time of writing the 2022 Year to Date rainfall has been Decile 8-9 with some parts of the Shire recording over 200 mm so far. Surface water flows have filled farm dams in most parts. This will help reduce demand for Water Corporation water for the purpose of watering stock over the upcoming summer.

There do not appear to have been any significant supply outages involving Water Corporation meter delivery since our last meeting.

Mark Holland, Head of Projects – Grower Group Alliance for the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub presented at the recent WALGA Great Eastern Country Zone (GECZ), of which the Shire of Mount Marshall is a member. The hub is funded by the Federal Government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund. The hub has begun implementing activities such as the collaborative \$4 million WaterSmart Dams initiative, which is jointly funded by the Future Drought Fund and the Government of Western Australia. Mark's address discussed the South West of WA climate, the Hub Geographical area, actions to date and future directions.

Andrew Ducas from the Water Corporation also presented at the WALGA GECZ on operations. Andrew's talk was wide ranging and very informative for the 16 Local Governments in the Zone.

Toodyay (Rosemary Madacsi)

Protracted dry weather to April produced a Northam KBDI reading of 180 mm, well above the five year average of 10-80 mm. Despite a good and reasonably even rainfall distribution in June, it was well below average. This was evident in the July KBDI of 100 mm, which showed soil saturation is still low and much drier than the five year average.

Community Water Supply grants for the Shire's 2022 water sustainability program were realized with the February delivery of four 47,000 L water tanks - three asset renewal tanks for Morangup and Coondle East and West and one to increase capacity at Julimar. A 27,000 L tank was repurposed to increase Morangup's capacity, all filled from rainwater hubs.

Pressurised water delivery was completed in March at the Julimar Fire Station which will provide for fire and Shire works crews. The Shire is expecting delivery of five more 47,000 L tanks - one asset renewal, three for new sites and one for capacity increase, during April to May.

The 2021 installed efbpos operated community standpipe suffered from protracted heat and a component failure on January 21, leaving the community without domestic water access until March 11. A hybridized more heat resistant part was supplied for \$11,000. Shading is intended for the unit.

A water sustainability report is intended to examine the feasibility of town wastewater reuse and a water treatment return pipe to reduce scheme water demand.

Victoria Plains (Pauline Bantock)

- Gillingarra Water Supply – Working with DWER & DPLH regarding the ownership and management rights of the community water supply, with the Gillingarra Sport and Recreation Club and the surrounding landholders who host the water source & infrastructure currently involved in a Supreme Court writ.
- Mogumber Water Supply – The Shire has completed an upgrade of the water pipe from the elevated tank to the emergency water supply standpipe to ensure fast flow of water for fire emergencies. With a source of water no longer directly linked to the elevated tank, water is trucked in to refill the supply and the new pipe also aids the refilling process. The Shire continues to investigate water source options and is lobbying for funding to achieve a sustainable supply to Mogumber.
- Piawaning Water Supply – The Shire has undertaken a major overhaul of the Piawaning desalination plant and installed swipe card access. This has improved operational efficiency and reduced the sudden usage of large quantities of water. The plant is monitored remotely by a qualified desalination expert. The 6 month trial of the swipe card access has been extended to gain further data on water usage under the new arrangements.
- Calingiri: Gouge Road Standpipe and Parker Road Bore – Installation of swipe card access through the national water grid scheme.
- Other issues that Shire needs to address include:
 - The Bolgart Water Supply.
 - Water supply for major roadwork projects.
 - Calingiri Water Corporation Supply.
 - Yerecoin/Piawaning Water Corporation Supply.
- CEO and management team are now in the process of developing a water strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Region Reports be received.

Resolution

**Ross Della Bosca moved and Lawrie Short seconded –
That Region Reports be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Members of Parliament

Brief comments by Members of Parliament.

Dealt with earlier.

6.5 Other

No other matters were brought forward.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Financial Reports

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022 (attached). The Group's current cash balance is \$3,914.73. Invoices for 2022 membership fees will be issued in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial report for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022 be received.

RESOLUTION

**Eileen O'Connell moved and Denese Smythe seconded –
That the financial report for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022 be received.**

CARRIED

7.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are presented for payment –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Accounts to be Paid</u>		
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Service March 2022 2021 to July 2022	1,471.25
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u>\$1,471.25</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,471.25 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Lawrie Short moved and Denese Smythe seconded –
That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,471.25 be passed for payment.**

CARRIED

8 BUSINESS

8.1 Invitation to Local Governments

At its June meeting the Executive Committee requested that an invitation be extended to non-member local governments surrounding Cunderdin to attend this meeting. Invitations to attend and discuss water issues in their district were sent to the Shires of Cunderdin, Wyalkatchem, Tammin, Quairading, Beverley, Trayning, Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock and Northam.

RECOMMENDATION

For information

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of representatives from the Shires of Cunderdin and Quairading and apology from the Shire of Wyalkatchem.

8.2 Meeting with Minister for Water

At its June meeting the Executive Committee recommended that an invitation be extended to the Minister for Water to attend a meeting of the Rural Water Council in February/March 2023. In extending an invitation to the Minister consideration will need to be given to issues to be discussed and a venue.

The Minister last meet with the Group on 30 January 2020. The meeting was held at the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre in Northam.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That an invitation be extended to the Minister for Water to attend a meeting of the Rural Water Council in February/March 2023.
- (b) That Hon Darren West's assistance be requested in arranging a meeting with the Minister for Water.
- (c) That the Executive Committee arrange a suitable venue.

RESOLUTION

Mark Crees moved and Eileen O'Connell seconded –

- (a) **That an invitation be extended to the Minister for Water to attend a meeting of the Rural Water Council in February/March 2023.**
- (b) **That Hon Darren West's assistance be requested in arranging a meeting with the Minister for Water.**
- (c) **That the venue be the Water Corporation's Office in Cunderdin.**

CARRIED

9 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

9.1 Water Legislation Reform

RESOLUTION

Denese Smythe moved and Pauline Bantock seconded –

That a briefing be sought from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the modernisation of water resources management legislation and the consolidation of six current water resource management Acts into one.

CARRIED

10 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 21 October 2022
- Friday 17 March 2023
- Friday 7 July 2023
- Friday 20 October 2023

At its June meeting the Executive Committee considered the offer from the Shire of Toodyay to host the October 2022 meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that the offer be accepted.

The meeting may care to consider the suitability of the Water Corporation's Cunderdin Office Conference Room for future meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 21 October 2022 and, subject to COVID-19 safe requirements, be hosted by the Shire of Toodyay.

The meeting noted that the date and time of the March 2023 meeting will need to be flexible depending on the availability and attendance of the Minister for Water.

The meeting noted the suitability of the Water Corporation's Cunderdin office for future meetings.

RESOLUTION

Mark Crees moved and Pauline Bantock seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 21 October 2022 and, subject to COVID-19 safe requirements, be hosted by the Shire of Toodyay. CARRIED

11 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked delegates, observers (particularly those from the Shires of Cunderdin and Quairading) and presenters for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11:32 am.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

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

REPORTS

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. Registered farmers accessed their allocated water via standpipe swipe card systems.

The area is currently at decile 9 and due to above average rainfall in April, there was sufficient on-farm livestock water to meet livestock drinking water needs. Planning for revocation of the water deficiency declarations is in progress.

Community Water Supply program 2020/21 Round

<p>The Shire of Merredin Completed</p>	<p>\$75,120</p>	<p>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 \$8000. Near completion.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>The Shire of Mukinbudin Progressing</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The Shire of Wyalkatchem Project completed</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>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 town's non-potable water supply for townscape irrigation.</p>
<p>The Shire of Wyalkatchem Project completed</p>	<p>\$79,759</p>	<p>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.</p>

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	This project builds on the Shire's previous works undertaken to enhance storage and access to emergency firefighting water across the Shire. 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. 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.
The Shire of Jerramungup Project completed	\$87,174	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. 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.
The Shire of Plantagenet Project completed	\$94,031	Project will further boost their non-potable supplies in Mount Barker to irrigate the expansive Sounness Park Recreation Precinct and Frost Park Oval. 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.
The Shire of Gnowangerup Project Completed	\$100,000	Project will build a 12,000 kilolitre capacity dam at the Gnowangerup airstrip. 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. A solar pump system will be installed to transfer water between dams and a generator will serve as a backup power system. Two 250 kilolitre capacity tanks will be installed and a road created for farmers and the fire brigade to access the tanks.
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 Bidy 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 600 mm of annual rainfall.

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

The 2021/22 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	\$331,463.43
Total	\$2,443,205.50

2021/22 financial year - A number of projects including:

- Mukinbudin - Dootanning – new roof to control evaporation
- Lake Grace – Sugg Rock – rock catchment channel upgrades/clean out
- Lake Grace – Burngup Railway dam catchment channels
- Gnowangerup Town dam 1 – channel upgrades and new pump system
- Kondinin – Allen Rock Bore – new tank, plumbing and electrics
- Kondinin – King Rocks – new tanks (now a bank of 5 tanks)
- Kulin – Repairs to Holt rock pipeline.
- Sundry other works

National Water Grid Connections Funding projects (2 yr 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 600 mm 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 Government. 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 5.6 km of 75 mm 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	Delayed
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	Completed

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.</p> <p>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	On Track
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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Dudinin dam catchment will also be upgraded and the Henderson Road bore will be fenced off to provide added security.</p>	\$86,286	Completed
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	On Track
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.</p> <p>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	On Track

2021/22	Trayning	<p>The Shire of Trayning has applied for funding to reduce the Shire's reliance on scheme use making the Shire more self-sufficient.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	\$50,000	Completed
2021/22	Williams	<p>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.</p> <p>Two 250 kilolitre capacity tanks will be installed and connected to the bore for the farming community to access. The Shire has 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.</p>	\$49,025	On Track
2021/22	Albany	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>It is estimated the project will reduce scheme water use by 3,120 kilolitres per year resulting in annual cost savings of \$19,000.</p>	\$62,000	Commenced
Total			\$674,884	

Round 2

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 increase and water security by installing two new 250 kL water tanks at the Flax Mill Precinct and upgrade the gutters to enable rainfall runoff to be captured off the large storage sheds.</p> <p>This installation of the tanks will increase the Shire's capacity to capture and store non-potable water which will be made available for emergency off farm and firefighting purposes.</p> <p>The project will increase public amenity as the water will also be used to irrigate the play areas around the precinct.</p>	\$75,687	Commenced
2021/22	Bruce Rock (2 projects)	<p>The Shire of Bruce Rock has applied for funding for two separate projects to increase the water capture availability of the two town turkey nest dams that have a total capacity of 50 500 kilolitres.</p> <p>Project one will desilt and upgrade the turkey nest dams and reshape the drainage channel that joins the two dams.</p> <p>Project two is to undertake cleaning of the catchment drainage channels to the Bruce Rock town dams known as Circle and Square dams, that have a combined capacity of 64,000 kilolitres.</p> <p>The Project will also desilt and re-compact the square dam to increase capacity.</p> <p>The upgraded dams will increase the fit-for-purpose water supply that irrigates the towns recreation centre oval and townscapes.</p>	\$20,000 and \$10,000	Commenced

2021/22	Moora (3 projects)	<p>The Shire of Moora has applied for funding for related three projects that will greatly improve the recycled wastewater irrigation water supply scheme in the town of Moora.</p> <p>The first project will replace the aging chlorine gas treatment system with an improved salt chlorination treatment system. Upgrading the system will improve water treatment management and reduce the safety risks associated with the current chlorine gas treatment system. The project will install a new salt chlorination system and associated fittings and supporting infrastructure.</p> <p>Project two will stabilise the Moora town's wastewater storage dam walls. Strengthening the walls will ensure the dam continues to hold water and stop erosion that has been causing damage to nearby infrastructure. Once works are complete a new safety fence will be installed.</p> <p>Project three will upgrade the old irrigation system that delivers the treated recycled water to the Moora town sporting ovals. The new automated system will improve management of recycled treated wastewater for irrigation and avoid the use of expensive scheme to maintain the towns sporting amenities.</p>	\$100,000, \$100,000, \$67,210	Commenced
2021/22	Perenjori	<p>The Shire of Perenjori has applied for funding to remove the collapsing old tin roof on the approximate 14,000 kilolitre capacity Caron community dam. The project will replace the roof with a new flexible evaporation tension net system. The project aims to showcase an innovative and cost-efficient method of limiting water loss through evaporation.</p> <p>The dam is used for road construction and maintenance as well as for firefighting. The new evaporation control netting is estimated to increase current capacity by 12 700 kilolitres and avoid the high cost associated with scheme water use.</p> <p>Funding of \$100 000 is recommended for the cost of removing the timber supports and tin roof structure, disposing of the materials and installing a new flexible evaporation tension net system.</p>	\$100,000	Commenced

2021/22	Plantagenet	<p>The Shire of Plantagenet has applied for funding to increase the town of Mount Barker's Frost Park Dam water holding capacity from 5000 kilolitres to 14 000 kilolitres.</p> <p>The project complements a key objective in the Shire's 2020 Water Management Strategy to maximise the towns non-potable water supplies to reticulate the towns sport and recreational facilities and parklands.</p> <p>The water from the dam will also be made available during dry periods for emergency farm and firefighting purposes.</p>	\$75,371	Commenced
2021/22	Wandering	<p>The Shire of Wandering has applied for funding to install three 109 kilolitre capacity steel water tanks and upgrade pipework and guttering to capture rainwater runoff off the town of Wandering's Community Centre's roof catchment.</p> <p>The project will connect the tanks to the Community Centres ablution facilities and replace expensive scheme water to the toilets and shower, as well as irrigate the established Community Centre gardens.</p>	\$39,907	Commenced
Total			\$588,175	

A further 11 projects (grant value \$1,016,324) are with the Minister for Water and are expected to be announced in coming weeks (Round 3). Details of these projects will be provided once approval process is complete.

2. National Water Grid Connections Fund – Agricultural Area and 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 in progress.
- Projects to value of \$1,164,201 (complete, underway, scheduled, in planning)
- Agreements and approvals including vegetation clearing progressing.

Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
 FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2022**

RECEIPTS	Actual For Year	Estimate For Year
Membership		
Associations (@ \$300)	0.00	4,800
Individuals (@ \$150)	0.00	300
Interest Earned	0.00	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0.00	5,100
PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses		200
Secretarial Service	2,050.90	5,000
TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$2,050.90	5,200
CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	5,965.63	5,966
Plus Receipts	0.00	5,100
	5,965.63	11,066
Less Payments	2,050.90	5,200
Closing Balance	\$3,914.73	5,866
BANK RECONCILIATION		
Cheque Account Balance (as at 31/5/2022) (Westpac)	5,965.63	
Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement	0.00	
	5,965.63	
Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement	2,050.90	
Balance as per Cash Book	\$3,914.73	



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 Robert Dew
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER