Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lachlan Valley Water Inc

held at the Forbes Golf and Sportsmans Hotel, Forbes, on

Wednesday 23 August at 9.30am

**PRESENT**: T Green (Chair), M Ewing, N Crawford, S Hinds, P Hinds, R Schall, J Coad, S French, J Coupland, I Smith, W Dawson, D Stewart, R Scott, M Green, M Duff, N Turner, G Turner, S Schulte, E Wilson, G Johnston, H Wilson, Q Moxey, S Whan, J Curran (9.50), A Martin, A Frazer, T Morgan (10.00), Sri Srilitheran (10.10), J Smith (10.30),D Williams (10.30), S Williams-Green (10.30), K Goldsmith (10.30)

**APOLOGIES**: - W Judge, E Fagan, A Watt, J Morgan, D Moxey, M Kearines, J Bruce, M Storrier, M Payten

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.45 am and welcomed all present, including guest speakers Quentin Moxey, Moxey Farms, Gooloogong; Andrew Frazer, WaterNSW; Stephanie Schulte, Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators’ Council and Steve Whan, CEO, National Irrigators Council.

**MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Motion**: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM, as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved G Turner, seconded J Coupland. Carried.  **Carried.**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

Tom Green reported

* A wet winter last year that saw the dam filling, only to be followed by severe flooding and damage later in the year. LVW lobbied for disaster relief. Dam inflows down this year.
* LVW is in a good financial position, thanks to everyone for their support. Membership continues to grow.
* The WSP drags on. It continues to be a very slow process, especially with the restructure of DPI Water and the loss of much knowledge. A change in rules is needed to bring confidence to the valley
* Having many electoral boundaries along the Lachlan makes it hard to gain political traction and there seems to be lack of political will. LVW continues to push at both the Ministerial and Local levels.
* The recent Four Corners Program has hindered the WSP process and harmed the industry. LVW continues to work with the northern valleys, the NSWIC and NIC.
* Consultants have been engaged to run the media campaign aimed at lifting the profile of the Lachlan Valley and Specific Issues. Jemalong Irrigation Limited is also contributing to this campaign.
* LVW wants to see the cost benefit of the Lachlan Water Security Project before it puts its weight behind it.
* LVW continues as members of both NSWIC and NIC.
* Thank you to those members of the Executive who have invested much time in the various industry committees.
* Thank you to all the members of the Committee for their support and input throughout the year, to the EO for her continued dedication and hard work, and to Admin Support.

**2016/17 FINANCIAL REPORT - tabled:**

The EO presented the 2016/17 financial report and answered questions. The report was considered and approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 23 August 2017 and was therefore presented for the information of members.

###### EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT – tabled, and presented by M Ewing.

The EO thanked members for their contribution and those with roles on CAG and CSC.

She received questions on the availability of any irrigation efficiency programs in the Lachlan Valley and also the support for 80:20 water pricing/charges. Stephanie Schulte (NSWIC) indicated that IPART might move to individual valley determination.

**NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LVW EXECUTIVE**

Belubula Landholders Association: Jo Curran, Stuart Morrow, Michael Payten

Upper Lachlan Water User Group Div A Matt Frazer, Ed Fagan, alt. Ernie Idiens

Upper Lachlan Water User Group Div B Ian Smith, Dennis Moxey, alt. John Bruce, Mark Green

Jemalong Irrigation Ltd Nick Turner, Jamie Morgan, Stuart French

Mid Lachlan Water Users Association Matt Browning, Gerard Elias, Vicki Tyson

Booberoi Creek Landholders Association Mark Kearines, Ted Middleton

Lake Cargelligo & District Water Users Ian McFadyen

Hillston Water Users Tim Watson, Mick Storrier, Will Storrier, Sam Mitchell.

Willandra Creek Water Users Andrew Stalley, Matt Mitchell (?)

Lower Lachlan Landcare Group Gordon Turner

Skills-based Irrigators Tom Green

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The Executive Officer introduced the motion proposed by the Executive Committee:

**Motion:** To amend the Constitution of Lachlan Valley Water as follows:

* Amend clause 4 to add the words*: The assets of the organisation shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation. The only exception is bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.* Moved S French, seconded G Turner and carried.
* Amend clause 18(c) to add the words*: There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.* Moved J Coupland, seconded M Duff and carried.
* Amend clause 46(a) to read: *Subject to the Act and the Regulations, in a winding up of the association , any surplus property of the association is to be transferred to another organization with similar objects* ***(objectives??)*** *and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.* Moved M Green, seconded I smith and carried.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Quentin Moxey, Moxey Farms, Goologong.**

Quentin presented a video overview of their business; their corporate structure, employment strategies, size and scope of operation, marketing, crop production, cattle breeding and dependency on water. For many years the company had maintained a low profile but felt now was the time to get out on the front foot and tell their story. He emphasized that investment in water and water security was vital from Government if the valley was to attract commercial investors and to create secure jobs in the region. F

**Andrew Frazer – WaterNSW.** Andrew spoke of his project team’s investigations into the options for securing further water security in the Lachlan Valley. He presented a short-list of four options that would be considered, either individually or combined, to bring about a step change improvement in security and reliability for irrigators.

**Stephanie Schulte – Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators Council.**  Stephanie spoke on

* Water charges: IPART and ACCC
* Rules (?)
* Customer Advisory Groups – the rebadging and new composition of the old CRC’s.
* Water Resource Plan. The loss of much corporate knowledge
* Mark Harris – formerly DPIwater (?) – currently engaged as Consultant.

**Steve Whan – CEO, National Irrigators Council.** Steve spoke on the MDBP and the Four Corners program. He expected that the 650GL of efficiency projects announced in the MDBP would prevent the need for any further water buyback. Evaluate their success before worrying about the need to recover the 450GL upwater. Time would be needed to counter the perception of irrigation as bad industry. Important that there was not a review into the whole MDB Plan as the environment lobby would seek more water. There is a move to allow CWEH to trade over-recovered water.

The Chairman thanked all the guest speakers and announced the launch of a photographic competition to raise the profile of the Lachlan Valley.

**The AGM was called to a close at 12.40pm and all those in attendance were invited to gather for a BBQ lunch in the grounds of the Hotel.**