Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lachlan Valley Water Inc

held at

Hillston Ex-Servicemen’s and Citizens’ Club, High Street, Hillston

on

Wednesday 28 August 2019 at 9.30am

**PRESENT**: T Green (Chair), M Ewing, N Crawford, Peter Laird, Ann Laird, Mick Storrier, Lee McGuire, Don Roberts, Michelle Azzopardi, Daniel Shields, Trent Summers, Christine Freak (NSWIC), Nick Turner, Jock Coupland, Christopher Petersen, Mick Brettschneider, Jim Crossley, Gordon Turner, Geoff Peters, Sam Fensom, David Fensom, David Storrier, Paul Mulcahy, Peter Wiggins, Tim Watson, Graeme Horneman, Daniel Scherrer (WaterNSW), Sri Sritharan (WaterNSW), Jack Fensom, Will Storrier,

**APOLOGIES**: - Ian McFadyen, Brett Lewis, Mark Kearines, Gerard Elias, Ian Smith, Ed Fagan, Wal Dawson, Ted Middleton, Warwick Judge.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.40 am and welcomed all present, introducing guest speakers Christine Freak, Policy Officer NSWIC, Sri Sritharan (WaterNSW) and Danial Scherrer (WaterNSW).

**MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Motion**: That the minutes of the 2018 AGM, as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record. **Moved** G Turner, seconded J Coupland **Carried.**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** verbal

Tom Green reported on:

* Deteriorating conditions in the past three years since the AGM was last held at Hillston
* Now onto our fourth Department secretary since then. Major restructure continues to be an ongoing headache.
* More positive engagement now with the new State Minister Pavey
* Wyangala Dam still a major item on the agenda
* Federal Government seeming to push implementation of the MBDA plan at any cost
* The effect of this on the Water Sharing Plans
* Metering Policy. No one attending the AGM from the Department to speak on this issue. Deadline looming and no finalization of rules and requirements.
* LVW to maintain membership of NSWIC, which has completed 41 reviews since MDBA implemented. These have mostly been ignored. Christine Freak to elaborate later in proceedings.
* LVW in good shape financially and enjoying good support.
* Thank you extended to the Executive committee for their time
* Thank you extended to the Executive Officer for her continued hard work and commitment to LVW and to her Administration support.

**2018/19 FINANCIAL REPORT** - tabled:

J Bruce presented the 2018/19 financial report for the information of members. The report had been reviewed and passed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 27 August 2019.

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

* Acknowledged the early waiving of fixed charges to provide drought assistance
* Next IPART water pricing determination next year. LVW to call for farmer/individual submissions to support LVW’s position.
* Nominations for Area Representatives remain the same as 2018/19
* Lower Lachlan Groundwater – how can it be managed more proactively? Not acceptable to receive a 30% cut with no prior warning. Should be flagged three or four months out. Physical performance of the aquifer does not come into it.

**NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LVW EXECUTIVE**

Belubula Landholders Association: Andrew Holmes, Stuart Morrow, Michael

Payten

Upper Lachlan Water User Ed Fagan, Ian Smith, Dennis Moxey, alt. John Bruce

Jemalong Irrigation Ltd Nick Turner, Stuart French

Mid Lachlan Water Users Association Matt Browning, Gerard Elias, Jock Coupland, Wal Dawson

Booberoi Creek Landholders Association Mark Kearines, Ted Middleton

Lake Cargelligo & District Water Users Ian McFadyen

Hillston Water Users Brett Lewis, Mick Storrier, Will Storrier, Sam Fensom

Willandra Creek Water Users ??????

Lower Lachlan Landcare Group Gordon Turner

Skills-based Irrigators Tom Green

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Nil

There being no General Business, the Chairman broke the meeting at 10.25am for morning tea. Presentations by the Guest Speakers followed after the break.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Mary Ewing stood in for DPIE Water**, who were unable to find the time to attend the meeting, and ran a screen presentation of their new metering regulations, including the standards that apply to meters, size thresholds, installation conditions, telemetry requirements and transitional arrangements if you want to retain an existing meter. Also the dates by which it is necessary to comply. Overall, the implementation is poor and irrigators have received piecemeal advice on the requirements, resulting, in some cases, in poor economic results. The whole metering program has been poorly thought out and has been a political decision with a plan rolled out before it was developed. Telemetry is proving a real problem.

**Christine Freak, Policy Officer, NSWIC.** Christine elaborated on the overview she had presented at the General Meeting on 27th August and covered NSWIC role and priorities.

**Sri Sritharan and Danial Scherrer, Water Operations, WaterNSW.** Sri presented many statistical overheads representing Wyangala Dam inflows and water availability since the dam was constructed and operational requirements to run the river. He presented options to effectively manage the river through the summer 2019/20. He spoke of the trial that is underway regarding ordering of water out of hours.

The Chairman thanked all guest speakers.

The AGM was called to a close at 1.10pm and all those in attendance were invited to stay for lunch.