Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lachlan Valley Water Inc

held at

 Forbes Golf and Sportsmans Hotel, 17 Parkes Road, Forbes, NSW

Tuesday 15th March 2022, commencing 9.30am

**PRESENT**: Steve Karaitiana (FSC), Brian Mattiske (FSC), John Bruce, John Alcorn, Nina Crawford, Ian Smith, Mark Green, Warwick Judge, Susie Williams-Green, Tom Green, Mary
Ewing, Ian Mc Fadyen, Jock Coupland, Dennis Moxey, Gail Moxey, Nick Turner, Mahmood Khan (WaterNSW), Ajantha Prathab (WaterNSW), Gerard Elias, Hartley Wilson, Sue Sharp, Danika McDonald, Henry McDonald, Rob Scott, Andrew Lavelle (Water Infrastructure NSW), Ian Payne (Water Infrastructure NSW), Emma Pryor (Water Infrastructure NSW – Communications), Jordie Cooper (Water Infrastructure NSW – Communications)

**APOLOGIES**: Ed Fagan, Michael Delaney, Sam Fensom, Mark Rathmell, Matt Burke, Claire Miller (CEO NSWIC)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.50 am .

**MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Motion**: That the minutes of the 2020 AGM, as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record. **Moved** J Coupland, seconded N Turner. **Carried.**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** verbal

Tom Green reported on:

* Challenging conditions of last year
* Extreme variability of flows in the Lachlan and the need to support the raising of the dam wall.
* Water pricing.
* Metering and the huge on-cost to users.
* WRP and accreditation to the MDB plan.
* Flood Plain harvesting
* River operations
* Thanks to Committee, Office Admin and the EO.
* Presentation the previous day to D Moxey in recognition of 25 years of service

**2020/2021 FINANCIAL REPORT** - tabled:

J Bruce presented the 2021 financial report and moved that the report be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded Hartley Wilson. Carried.

###### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

M Ewing spoke to the report which was circulated with the meeting papers. Water availability conditions improved rapidly over 2020/21. Groundwater usage was well below the extraction limit in all regions.

The Water Resource Plans for both Surface Water and Groundwater in NSW will be resubmitted to the MDBA in the near future and the review of the Water Sharing Plan for the regulated Belubula will now be reviewed by 2023.

WaterNSW charges significantly increased in 2020/21 and LVW is to pursue the economic advantage of a move to 80:20 fixed:usage based pricing.

LVW to ensure members are fully informed of the new metering requirements, with the majority of Lachlan and Belubula licence holders facing a deadline of December 2022.

LVW recorded a profit of $13,948 for 2021/22 and reserve funds of $230,000, which meets the aim of one year’s operating costs in reserve and a capacity to fund projects for the benefit of members.

Progress on the Wyangala Dam augmentation has slowed, not only through project complexity and the number of studies required for the business case, and the Environmental Impact Assessment, but also because of Covid restrictions delaying progress on these studies.

LVW belongs to both NSW Irrigators Council and National Irrigators Council, with LVW Chairman, Tom Green, being a board member of NSW Irrigators Council. Membership of both groups facilitates a voice as state and national levels on higher level issues.

The EO thanks all members for their continuing support and recognised Dennis Moxey for this contribution to LVW over the past 25 years,

**NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LVW EXECUTIVE**

Because of the deferment of six months to holding the AGM, the current committee members renominated for a further six months and remain as follows:

Upper Lachlan (Gooloogong– upstream Cowra) Ed Fagan, Michael Delaney, Toby Delaney

Upper Lachlan (Gooloogong – Island Creek offtake) Ian Smith, Dennis Moxey, Mark Green

Belubula Landholders Association Michael Payten, Stuart Morrow, Andrew Holmes

Jemalong Irrigation Nick turner, Stuart French

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

Lake Cargelligo Water Users Ian McFadyen

Hillston Water Users Mick Storrier, Sam Fensom, Will Storrier

Lower Lachlan Landcare Group Gordon Turner

Booberoi Creek and Landcare Association Mark Kearings, Ted Middleton

Willandra Creek

Skills and Expertise Tom Green, John Bruce

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

As there were no questions from the floor, the Chairman closed the formal business of the Annual General Meeting at 10.15am

There followed a general discussion on the meter installation process and the considered change to water charging, after which the gathering broke for morning tea. After morning tea, the guest speakers made their presentations.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Andrew Lavelle, Water Infrastructure NSW.** Andrew spoke on the Wyangala Dam upgrade and where the project is up to, what studies and investigations are underway and what modelling is being undertaken. He also spoke to the Belubula Water Security project.

**Phyllis Miller, OAM – Mayor of Forbes.** Phyllis spoke on the impacts for the community and the regional economy of the Wyangala Dam upgrade project and expressed a strong belief in the benefits of raising the wall.

**Ajantha Prathab, Water Operations Manager, WaterNSW.** Ajantha has taken on the position of Water Operations Manager on the retirement of Sri Sritharan. She spoke on flood management in 2021 and river operations for the year going forward,

The presentations by guest speakers closed at 12.50pm, and the day concluded with lunch.