Tasmanian Irrigation / Irrigator Representative Committee Meeting: Swan Valley Irrigation Districts

Minutes

Date: 26 June 2019 at 10am
Location: Spring Vale Vineyard
Attendees: Andrew Kneebone, Fiona Buckingham, Simone Reynolds, Anna Graham, Scott Williams, Annie Browning, Rodney Jones, Tim Lyne, Adam Greenhill
Apologies: N/a

1. Previous meeting minutes accepted.

2. Previous meeting actions:
   - Irrigators to provide minimum volume demand and timing of request / TI to contact irrigators not present at the meeting / Demand modelling for 2018-19 delivery / TI to advise charges to apply to a 2018-19 supply
     Done – related to the 2018-19 supply, so no longer relevant.
   - TI to advise expected payment timeframe for balance of WEPCs
     31st August payment due. Contracts and invoices just posted out this week
   - Confirm with TasWater that they require the full volume, and whether there is flexibility with timing.
     Finalised – all delivered.

3. Scheme summary:

   KEY NOTES
   - delivered just over 650 ML to 5 irrigators for the season
   - Devils Corner was able to get full flowrate at end of Lagoon line
   - scheme is fully subscribed only option is trading if new outlets installed at irrigator cost
   - New outlet request on Lagoon line (new customer)
   - Dirt box needed replacing
   - Some damage in scheme due to eels

Dam levels:
   - Minimum level for normal delivery (NMOL) 800 ML
   - Full supply level (FSL) 3400 ML
   - Current level 1,650 ML
   - Absolute minimum is around 100 ML, but the flow rates would be impacted.

Key Notes:
- Budget assumed would be a full season. Actual supply was under General Availability for less than the full capacity of the scheme.
- Electricity for pumping for the dam fill has been met by Build rather than the scheme
- Overall small profit until May and expect by the end of year should be break even
- No fixed charges issued, and so therefore no asset renewal levy funds in the bank.

5. 2019-20 budgets and draft water pricing:

TI seeks feedback on the budgets and draft pricing from the IRC.

KEY NOTES
- aim to distribute expenditure across the four years to avoid price shock
- aim to have a small cash buffer in operating account
- Dam safety can vary significantly across different years depending on the required surveys.

DRAFT WATER PRICING
- Pricing retained as per last year with little change – very similar to pricing advised at water sales
- TI must advertise season start date in the newspaper prior to the season start
- IRC happy with pricing
- Electricity pricing is locked in until end of financial year

6. Draft Irrigator Representative Committee Charter:

Draft irrigator committee charter outlines IRC role and responsibilities. IRC feedback requested from IRC.

7. How to trade water entitlements

KEY NOTES
- Whoever holds entitlements at the start of the season will be charged fixed charges
- Advising the value of consideration for trades will help to TI to assess the water market
- Can trade volume and flow rate separately or together
- Scheme reliability can be compromised if flow rates not adhered to
- Can trade to other irrigators within zone or back towards source
• TI advised insufficient water supply to facilitate additional supply over a longer season. Consult with the IRC Chair to set the actual season dates to try to meet needs of irrigators – as long as it doesn’t negatively impact the scheme.

• TI advise could look at General Availability but need the scheme operating to determine availability

8. Other business:

• TI will have a season this year, however if the dam is not filled it will be on a proportional allocation. 1500 ML available for delivery now

• Nominal season opening date around beginning of September confirmed by IRC

• IRC asked could the season be longer with an option to deliver over across 10 months. This can be assessed on a year by year basis, ensuring reliability is not compromised.

  **ACTION:** TI to investigate implications of extending the season (up to 10 months) and clearly define any limitations.

9. TRANCHE 3 Update

• 10 schemes under investigation. Don, Fingal, Northern Midlands, Sassafras Augmentation, and Tamar progressing to feasibility. Interest has increased since initial EOI.

• After this first round, Southern Midlands and SEIS augmentation next to be progressed

IRC advised need to hold irrigators meeting to discuss pricing and season opening etc. TI to provide updated irrigator list to enable communications with the wider irrigator community.

**ACTION:** Provide updated irrigator list and contact details to IRC. Also email meeting information pack to all irrigators in the scheme.