



## **Meeting No. 3 Summary**

### **Loch Garry Reference Committee**

**Monday 20 March 2023**

---

**Attendees:**

Cath Botta (Independent Facilitator)

**GMW Loch Gary Customers**

Colin Gilby, James Grinter, Mackenzie Craig, Linton Ryan

**Community Representatives**

Mathew Price, Natalia Akers

**Agency Representatives**

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)

Guy Tierney

Moiria Shire Council

Graham Henderson

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW)

Charmaine Quick, Warren Blyth, Peter Clydesdale, Klaus Nannestad, Luke Dunham, Nadine Francis, Greg Shannon, Bob Knowles

---

#### **1. Welcome**

- Independent Facilitator Cath Botta welcomed all to the third meeting and reiterated the committee's purpose.

#### **2. Site visit**

- The committee visited the regulator and some of the nearby levee breaches
- The process for removing bars was explained.
- Several suggestions were made on how the regulator could be modernised or what could replace the regulator.
- It was noted when GMW tried to pull the bars, the water was 1 meter over the top of the gantry.
- It was noted legislation prevents certain works to be carried out (e.g. Removal of large trees from levee banks); however, the committee can make recommendations for exemptions.

#### **3. Action Items**

- The financials for Loch Garry were presented. The committee was advised Loch Garry Flood is not accruing debt and that any debt is recovered by under and overs through pricing.
- It was explained it took 12 hours for the water peak to reach Loch Garry from the Shepparton gauge in the 2022 flood. It was noted this would vary depending on the level of a particular flood in future events.

#### **4. Cost Discussion: To fix the Loch Garry Flood Protection Area**

- The committee was also informed that partial funding had been confirmed to help GMW meet its ongoing obligations to the Loch Garry Flood Protection Service following the October 2022 floods.
- The funds will assist GMW with the immediate repair works at Lock Garry. The organisation is also committing over the next two years, to undertake a broad ranging review of its assets within Loch Garry Flood Protection District and how they are managed into the future.

**5. Discussion on proposed future operating rules and customer communications in an emergency**

- GMW proposed new operating rules.
- Discussion was held around timing of notifications to customers and when the bars would be physically lifted.
- Members agreed that notification will be sent out to the rate payers that all bars are being removed if the prediction is over 11m at the Shepparton gauge; however no agreement could be reached on when the bars would be physically pulled. GMW agreed to come back to the next meeting with a revised proposal.

**6. Discussion on future levels of service and potential changes to the infrastructure that could be considered**

- It was advised the Loch Garry regulator has a remaining lifespan of approximately 15-20 years.
- Discussion was held around the communities that benefit from the current rate payers contributions to repair and maintain the Loch and if funding can be sourced from these beneficiaries for wider capital funding.
- Discussion was held around a number of future levels of services including minimum levels of service, maintenance, re-establishment of a water services committee and what members want from the regulator (Quick, safe, reliable, flexible etc.).