



## Meeting No. 4 Summary

### Loch Garry Reference Committee

Tuesday 23 May 2023

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**Attendees:**

Cath Botta (Independent Facilitator)

**GMW Loch Gary Customers**

Colin Gilby, James Grinter, Mackenzie Craig, Linton Ryan, John Pettigrew

**Community Representatives**

Mathew Price, Natalia Akers, Darren Patterson

**Agency Representatives**

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)

Guy Tierney

Peter Harriott– City of Greater Shepparton

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW)

Peter Clydesdale, Luke Dunham, Nadine Francis , Greg Shannon, Andrew Shields, Geoff Coburn

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**1. Welcome**

- Cath welcomed all to the meeting and went over the agenda.

**2. Operating Rules Proposal**

- Cath reminds the committee of the Terms of Reference
- The committee discussed the revised operating rules that GMW proposed at the previous meeting.
- It was advised this would be an interim agreement while the current infrastructure is in place.
- It was suggested the operating rules need to be more explicit e.g. who is notified, and how the notification will be given.
- It was advised it will be necessary for people to opt-in to the SMS service to receive initial notifications from GMW.
- It is suggested the current operating rules are story-like and a dot point format should be adopted.

**Action: GMW to put operating rules into dot point format and consider any complexities about bars being replaced when levee breaches are in place**

**3. Engagement with the wider community on the proposed changes to the operating rules**

- A number of options were discussed including
  - A full meeting of the Loch Garry flood protection district
  - Letters to the Loch Garry customers
  - Smaller group meetings
  - Online questionnaire
  - Email documentation and request feedback e.g. via “Your Say”
- Discussions were held around what happens to feedback and where it would go.

#### 4. Finance and Pricing

- Geoff explained how pricing is determined and how costs are recovered by tariffs.
- The recovery of capital and operational works was explained.
- The profit and loss statement for Loch Garry was presented. It was explained this year was different due to the emergency works required post flooding in Oct 2022.
- It was explained there is a Pricing Submission Committee that will work through the next water plan. This will be a separate committee to this one.
- It was noted that customers want clarity on pricing impacts to customers. E.g. A cost per hectare.

#### 5. Levee Repairs Update

- Peter presented on the Loch Garry levee bank maintenance.
- The teams are currently preparing access to levee breaches.
- Clay import and levee constructions will be from 26/05/23.
- It was questioned if there are ongoing assessments around the levee structure. It was advised 70km has been inspected, which included 10.5km of Loch Garry works. GMW have committed to surveying an extra 5km of the levee.

**Action: GMW to consider minimum maintenance requirements of the levee for the Future Services Strategy.**

#### 6. Future Services Strategy Committee

- It was explained the Future Services Committee will need to be determined and a Terms of Reference developed.
- The members of this committee may or may not be involved, but everyone can nominate.

#### 7. Draft Summary of the Recommendations

- Cath provided a draft summary of the recommendations and noted this is a draft / starting point only. The members' comments were noted that this is a good start and that if a 2 year study is to be provided it will require strong resourcing from GMW.
- It was questioned if GMW will use third parties e.g. DEECA, GBCMA. It was advised that GMW will use third parties where required.
- Cath advised any further comments on the draft can be sent to Cath and copied to Peter.
- A revised version of the Operating Rules will be presented at the next meeting.
- It is noted Peter will be working on the community engagement plan in the background
- The next meeting will be to finalise the recommendations. This will likely be done via Teams.