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Queensland Water Commission
MINISTERIAL MEETING BRIEFING NOTE

Thursday 11 November 2010

Mary Boydell, Commissioner
Karen Waldman, Chief Executive Officer
9.11.2010
9.11.10

Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Ok
Dated / /	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved
<input type="checkbox"/> Further information required	
Minister.....	
Dated / /	

TO: Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade

SUBJECT: Quarterly meeting with the Queensland Water Commission

BACKGROUND

- The Queensland Water Commission (QWC) Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) meet with the Minister on approximately a quarterly basis in order to discuss matters of strategic importance.
- The previous meeting was held on 10 August 2010.
- The objective of this meeting is to:
 - o provide an opportunity for the Minister to raise issues with the Commissioner and the CEO; and
 - o update the Minister on key result areas, issues and achievements for the QWC.

CURRENT ISSUES

Author Name: Karen Waldman Position: CEO QWC Tel No: [REDACTED] Date: 28 October 2010	Cleared by Name: Karen Waldman Position: CEO QWC Tel No: [REDACTED]	Cleared by Name: Chris Robson Position: ADG Tel No: [REDACTED]	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: [REDACTED] Date:
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MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Update on key result areas for the QWC
- Attachment 2 – CSG Water – QWC's Stakeholder Engagement

Author Name: Karen Waldman Position: CEO QWC Tel No: [REDACTED] Date: 28 October 2010	Cleared by Name: Karen Waldman Position: CEO QWC Tel No: [REDACTED]	Cleared by Name: Chris Robson Position: ADG Tel No: [REDACTED]	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: [REDACTED] Date:
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1. **Planning for the provision of a safe, secure and reliable water supply for South East Queensland (SEQ) to achieve desired levels of service objectives.**

- The *South East Queensland Water Strategy* (Strategy) was released on 15 July 2010. Key features of the Strategy include:
 - Conserving water. Permanent Water Conservation Measures were introduced 11 months ago. The Queensland Water Commission (QWC) is revising its proposed communications campaign, to advise that even though dams are full, saving water remains an important issue for SEQ.
 - Being prepared and supply ready. In order to secure options for the future, the QWC is currently undertaking Phase 3 of the Desalination Siting Investigations to confirm the suitability of the priority sites and to develop an understanding of any outstanding investigations required prior to commencing the detailed feasibility studies.
 - Managing water efficiently. The QWC is working with the SEQ Water Grid Manager and WaterSecure to develop operating strategies that reduce capital and operating expenditure while managing security, technical, workforce and community risks. The Strategy also seeks to make additional water available for rural producers and irrigators, when it is not required for urban uses.
- The Strategy has identified the need to ensure stand-alone communities approach the same level of service as those communities connected to the Grid. The QWC, in collaboration with water entities and local governments, is developing a framework for assessing the water supply risk and developing a potential solution for stand-alone communities including Dayboro and Boonah and, in particular, Beaudesert and Canungra, which experienced shortages in 2009. A submission is being prepared for consideration in early 2011 about the future water supply options for stand-alone communities in the Scenic Rim. In addition, the QWC is developing drought response plans for those communities assessed to be most at risk (such as Canungra) to ensure security of supply under existing supply arrangements.
- In line with the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031, the QWC has developed a draft Sub-regional total water cycle management planning framework. The framework has been provided to the key stakeholders for review prior to application as a pilot approach in late 2010. The QWC and Moreton Bay Regional Council have commenced planning to develop a sub-regional total water cycle management plan for the Caboolture West area by August 2011. Additionally, the QWC is engaging with the Urban Land Development Authority, Ipswich City Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council to undertake a sub-regional total water cycle management plan for the priority areas of Ripley Valley and the Sunshine Coast (Palmview and Caloundra South).
- The QWC has commissioned Sunwater to investigate the potential for further water resource development of the Logan River Basin. Sunwater has submitted its draft report on the options for development. The Scenic Rim, Gold Coast and Logan Councils have been advised of the study and invited to participate in a workshop in November 2010 to consider the options. Further consideration is being given to smaller dams on the Albert River, including sites within the impoundment of the original Wolffdene Dam. Studies are on track for completion by mid 2011.
- On 7 September 2010, the QWC wrote to the Sunshine Coast and Gympie Regional Councils seeking their involvement in a project reference group (PRG) on the investigations of the upper Mary River water supply development options, including the Stage 3 raising of Borumba Dam. The PRG will include the QWC, the two councils, DERM, SunWater and key community groups. Gympie Regional Council proposed the Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee as a member of the PRG. The project now has formal endorsement by both Mayors. It is anticipated the study will be completed by mid 2011. A recent meeting

with the Mayor of Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council occurred on 22 October 2010. Both were supportive of the investigations proceeding in a collaborative and inclusive manner.

- As indicated in the Strategy, the QWC, in conjunction with Seqwater, will be investigating the maximum level to which the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam could be raised without raising the dam wall, while still remaining within acceptable risk levels. Preliminary investigations have indicated that only a one metre raising providing an additional 5000 megalitres may be possible while maintaining compliance with the environmental flow conditions under the Moreton Water Resource Plan. The investigations indicate that raising the level in excess of one metre actually results in less water being available due to greater losses from evaporation. Until the detailed investigations have been completed, flood waters will be cleared in accordance with the existing gazetted Flood Operations Manual developed by Seqwater and approved by the Dam Safety Regulator.
- The QWC is engaging with a number of stakeholders on resolving barriers to adopting local systems for water supply (such as stormwater harvesting and dual reticulation). In particular, the proposals at Fitzgibbon (stormwater harvesting) and Peregrin Springs (roof water harvesting and dual reticulation) are being used as case studies to address technical, regulatory and governance issues.