

## Howard Water Advisory Committee

### Notes for Meeting 7: Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

5.00pm –7.00pm, Whitewood Hall, Howard Springs Reserve

Present: Maria Kraatz, Dave Liddle, Jan Hintze, Mathew Salter, Kate Peake, Maree Bredhauer, David Ciaravolo, Shane Papworth (Arrived 6pm), Mardi Miles (DENR).

Apologies: Mark Smith, Gerry Wood, Donna Jackson, Bill Risk.

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

#### 2. Notes of previous meeting

Accepted.

Actions to follow up:

*Action: draft letter to Minister from HWAC and circulate to members for comment – in progress*

*Action: Information to be sent out on Beneficial Uses as declared under the Act.*

#### 3. HWAC communications

- Talent release forms required to enable photos of committee members to be used.

Key points:

- People not generally good at reading maps, so a few more markers on the maps on the factsheets are needed.
- Jan and Maree – keeps hearing 3 main things –
  - People are worried about government accessing their properties – a hangover from the Banana Freckle program
  - People think there is a big bucket of water below them and don't understand the geology. They don't understand the zoning.
  - People believe that metering is a precursor to charging for water.
- Matthew – need to get info out about management zones
- Kate – has heard that some producers are not putting licence applications in. Kezia is still quiet on FB. She has been short-listed for RIRDC. Will know on 28 March.

Jan has been placing factsheets up on public noticeboards and this has attracted attention.

ACTION: Send Kate some factsheets and she will also place up around the community.

ACTION – Mardi will add more locational markers on the factsheets

#### **4. Modelling scenarios**

Using the hydrogeological model, we are able to run scenarios which predict the impact of extraction on the management zones. Suggested scenarios to run include:

- Impacts of extraction (change to discharge) on Howard River, Whitewood jungle
- The impact of public water supply bores
- A reduction in stock and domestic use
- Future demand – and increase in public water supply use, and impact of population growth.

#### **5. Strategic Indigenous Reserve (SIR)**

The NT Government has committed to the establishment of Strategic Indigenous Reserves (SIRs) to provide Aboriginal landowners with increased opportunity to access water resources for economic development and to reduce barriers and disadvantage experienced in competing for access to water with other commercial interests.

Feedback is being sought on a number of issues;

- Establishing SIRs
- Maintaining SIRs
- Alignment with water allocation plans
- Accessing water from SIRs
- Trading water from SIRs
- Impact on pending licences
- Determining the percentage of water to be held as an SIR

Submissions close Thursday 13 April 2017.

#### **6. Plan strategies (for objectives)**

Objectives for the plan were discussed and drafted (see attachment) using the Berry Springs WAP objectives as a starting point. Noted that strategies under each objective may vary between management zones.

Further discussion is needed to reach a committee position on strategies that relate to stock and domestic options, trade rules and reliability levels.

#### **7. HWAC meeting schedule and work plan to June 2017**

Field tour rescheduled to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 12-6pm.

#### **8. Other business**

Nil

#### **9. Next Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> April**