

Minutes

Meeting opened 5.30 pm

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Members

Dr Jocelyn Davies (Chair)	Ex CSIRO / geographer
Mr Eli Melki	Alice Springs Town Council
Ms Veronica Lynch	Indigenous / AAPA representative
Mr Adam Davis	Power & Water Corporation
Ms Wendy Stuart	Central Land Council
Mr Rod Cramer	Rural water user
Mr Glenn Marshall	Alice Springs resident (urban water efficiency expert)
Mr Jimmy Cocking	Arid Lands Environment Centre

DENR representatives (Non-members)

Mr Robbie Henderson	DENR Water Planner
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Observers

Mr Bill Low	Chair of Ti-Tree WAC
Mr Alex Read	Arid Lands Environment Centre

APOLOGIES:

Ms Robyn Grey-Gardner	Alice Springs resident (water quality expert)
Mr Steven O'Burtill	Alice Springs resident (former golf club manager / irrigator)
Mr Richie Hayes	Agriculture/Horticulture representative
Ms Sarah Fairhead	DENR Director Southern Region

STATUS OF EXISTING ACTION ITEMS

Action No.	Action details	Action Officer	Status
1.1	<i>Members to identify a proxy and provide their contact details to Robbie at DENR prior to or at the next ASWAC meeting</i>	All members	4 members have identified proxies
1.2	<i>All Members to fill out the declaration of interests register form (hard copy or electronic) and provide to Robbie at DENR prior to or at the next ASWAC meeting.</i>	All members	4 members yet to complete (RH, SO, VL, EM)
1.3	<i>Draft proposed changes to the TOR for circulation to members prior to the next ASWAC meeting</i>	Robbie Henderson / Jocelyn Davies	Complete
1.4	<i>Prepare a 'bio' (one or two sentences)</i>	All members	Completed by all present

1.5	<i>Prepare DENR response to questions & matters raised and circulate between meetings</i>	Robbie Henderson	In progress (Fracking info provided)
1.6	<i>Plan an ASWAC field trip</i>	Robbie Henderson / Adam Davis	Complete (trip undertaken on 2 nd March)
1.7	<i>Provide education session on Alice Springs water basics for interested members (outside of ASWAC meeting)</i>	Robbie Henderson	Reassess requirement - pending

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1.1	<i>Edit water policy & planning presentation (make it suitable for general community), and place it on the website</i>	Robbie Henderson	Pending
1.2	<i>Update TOR & circulate. TOR deemed to be accepted by members if no response within 1 week. (Note feedback must CC' all)</i>	Robbie Henderson & All members	Pending
1.3	<i>Seek Controller of Water / Minister's mandate for ASWAC TOR</i>	Robbie Henderson	Pending
1.4	<i>Invite DIPL ex-officio member to join ASWAC</i>	Robbie Henderson	Pending
1.5	<i>Report back with further information regarding community education / water efficiency plans (if any).</i>	Robbie Henderson	Pending
1.6	<i>Draft ASWAC response to SIR policy consultations (from meeting notes) & circulate. (Note: feedback must CC' all)</i>	Robbie Henderson & All members	in progress

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Resolution
N/A	Nil

1. WELCOME AND OPENING MATTERS

Motion to confirm minutes of Meeting # 1: moved by Rod Cramer, Seconded by Jimmy Cocking; passed unanimously.

Declaration of any conflicts of interest re matters on agenda: Nil declared.

Feedback on declaration of interests within the broader context of ASWAC membership: the following members indicated they had no interests to declare (hence would not submit a form): Wendy Stuart (& proxy Sue Hemer), Glenn Marshall and Adam Davis (aside from Adam's interests as the Power and Water representative).

Update on actions from previous meeting(s): See table above

2. UPDATE ON DENR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Robbie Henderson provided updates on current work being progressed by DENR water resources division Territory wide;

- New WAPs and WAP reviews underway including Mataranka, Ooloo, Ti-Tree, Western Davenports (review).
- Re-established Water Advisory Committees: Alice Springs, Ooloo, Ti-Tree, Howard, Katherine. Mataranka in process of being established.
- Revision of Water Act – commencing
- Western Davenports WAP providing the opportunity to consider new approaches to licencing (potential alternatives to 'first in first served' such as EOI or staged allocations, however noted that 'first in first served is current NTG approved policy)
- Strategic Indigenous Reserve

3. PRESENTATION – INTRO. to ASWAP & OVERVIEW OF NT WATER PLANNING

Robbie Henderson (DENR) delivered the presentation using PowerPoint. The presentation included:

- Introduction to NT water policy & regulation frameworks
- Alice Springs water planning timeline (historic events and looking forward)
- Current position in the 'water planning cycle'
- Overview of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan (noting water allocation and implementation plan components)
- ASWAC statutory function under the Water Act and DENR perspective on ASWAC TOR

Request was made to make the presentation available via the DENR website.

Question was raised about what plans DENR have (if any) for 'community education' focusing on water, and water efficiency in general. It was noted that Power & Water deliver some water education activities on an ad hoc basis (e.g. excursions on request). Robbie Henderson (DENR Water Planner) not aware of any plans or resources available for water efficiency or community education programs at present.

Discussion included potential for a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis to determine where ASWAC may focus its attention. Also mentioned; option of assessing ASWAP implementation plan to monitor and evaluate progress.

ACTIONS:

Robbie Henderson (DENR) agreed to edit the presentation (make it suitable for general community), and place it on the website

Robbie Henderson to report back with further information regarding community education / water efficiency plans (if any).

4. ASWAC TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

Jocelyn Davies presented the draft ASWAC TOR which incorporated changes deriving from feedback received during ASWAC meeting #1. Changes include:

- Increasing maximum number of members from 10 to 11 (providing option to invite one new member if the committee perceives any gaps)
- Section 3 to be re-titled 'Functions'
- Inclusion of statement about 'risk assessment / management'
- Suggested Function to include sharing information with other committees established to advise the NT Government and whose role overlaps with the ASWACs role

Discussion points:

- Change TOR language to use the word 'Shall' wherever appropriate

- Adjust language to acknowledge Minister's role
- Noted ASWAP statement that a permanent ex-Officio member from Department of Infrastructure and Planning would be appointed to ASWAC. There was no dissent to this action (carried).
- Include 'monitoring and evaluation' of ASWAP as a core Function
- Discussion regarding sharing information with other committees; Agreement in principle that sharing information was positive, but uncertainty regarding support for this function from the other committees and from DENR (noting that ASWAC is established primarily to report back to DENR). Robbie to provide specific feedback.
- Agreed that once ASWAC has finalised draft TOR, Robbie will seek a formal mandate from the Controller of Water and Minister (via Ministerial)

ACTIONS:

Robbie Henderson (DENR) & Jocelyn Davies to further edit the draft TOR and circulate. Commenters must 'reply all.' TOR taken as accepted if / when no further comments received after one week. Robbie to seek mandate through a Ministerial.

Robbie Henderson to invite DPI ex-officio member to join ASWAC

5. PRESENTATION: STRATEGIC INDIGENOUS RESERVE (SIR)

Robbie Henderson (DENR) provided a copy of the SIR policy discussion paper and consultation questions to the Committee and delivered a presentation using PowerPoint. The presentation covered:

- SIR policy intent
- Summary of draft SIR policy (as contained in the draft policy discussion paper)
- Key questions for consultation
- Deadline for submissions (13th April 2017)

Members participated in a lengthy (1 hour) discussion regarding the SIR policy and how ASWAC would respond. Members decided that ASWAC could provide an agreed position of feedback to the SIR policy (by consensus). Each member was provided the opportunity to have a say on the points to be included. It was agreed that Robbie Henderson would draft the position (using notes from the meeting) and hand it over to Jocelyn Davies (Chair) to refine and complete via email exchange with Committee members.

The final ASWAC submission to the SIR policy consultation is provided as Annex 1.

6. CLOSING MATTERS & NEXT MEETING

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 30th May 2017

Jocelyn Davies asked Wendy Stuart to act as chair on any matters that might arise while she is interstate and on leave April 9 to 29th; and Glen Marshall to be backup to Wendy if necessary. Both agreed.

Meeting closed about 9.10pm