

# Minutes

<b>Title:</b>	Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee (#4) – Meeting No 2
<b>Meeting date:</b>	Thursday, 16 November 2023
<b>Meeting time:</b>	1.00 – 3.00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Bunyip Hall
<b>Attendees:</b>	Bruce Turner, Kate Yeowart, Garry Oates, Ian Nicolson, Frank Rovers, Susan Anderson, Matthew Coleman, Con Raffa, Ben Lamont & Brendan Nunn (Cardinia SC), Teena Mathew (Baw Baw SC), Paul Rees (MW), Adam Ryan (MW), Tom le Cerf (MW)
	<b>Apologies:</b> Ian Anderson, Paul Bucys and Kuan Yeoh (Casey), Stuart Cochrane (MW)
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner
<b>Note takers:</b>	Paul, Tom and Bruce

1. Welcome, apologies			Presenter
1.00	1.1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; apologies</b></p> <p>Bruce welcomed new member Kate and invited everyone to introduce themselves.</p>	Bruce Turner (Chair)
2. District overview and revised Terms of Reference			Presenter/ status
2.1		<p><b>Overview of District, precept rate, delivery team and maintenance program</b></p> <p>Tom provided an overview using a ppt presentation – see separate document.</p> <p><i>Ownership/ management responsibilities</i></p> <p>Kate asked whether it is clear who owns what parts of the drainage infrastructure in the District. Paul explained there are four overlapping categories of ownership (private, Council, MW, VicRoads). MW has mapped its assets and Council has mapped their assets, but some drains are not mapped as an asset for any authority. He noted that a review of Melbourne Urban Stormwater Institutional Arrangements (MUSIA) was currently underway and undertook to send the Council representatives present a link to information about forthcoming consultation forums.</p> <p><b>NEW ACTION (2.1):</b> Paul to provide link to Council staff to MUSIA workshop. DONE</p> <p>Matthew referred to instances where drains cross between different categories of land along their course. Tom said that MW and Councils can clarify the ownership status in response to individual queries. He also said that MW maintains some drains outside of the District using the general (ie not precept) Waterways &amp; Drainage rates charged to landowners outside the District. Matt asked about the Monomeath area to the south of the District which he said used to be part of the Dandenong Valley Authority District.</p>	Tom Le Cerf and colleagues

**NEW ACTION (2.2):** Tom to provide a map of the area south of the District showing which assets Melbourne Water has management responsibility for in that area.

#### *Flooding*

Tom showed a slide of the extent of the significant 2011 flood. Kate asked if there had been any improvements since then. Sue referred to the extensive willow removal program which included the Bunyip River frontage passing through her property. Tom spoke about management of levees. Kate referred to an area at Glover Road which tends to hold water in times of flood. Bruce noted the highlighting of such issues was a key role of the Advisory Committee and its landowner reps. (add to Issue/ Action tracker once Kate provides the specific details)

#### *Rates*

Tom provided details of the precept rate collected in the District - \$213 per title. This compares with the waterways charge of \$118 per title outside the District. Precept and Carrier drain annual business plans take into account revenue received to ensure that received funds are appropriately spent within the District.

Con suggested the current arrangement of funding works on carrier drains via a 50:50 split between the precept rate and external funds should be reviewed. He advocated for a greater share coming from outside the District in recognition of the ever-increasing level of development outside the District. There was general support for this concept.

**NEW ACTION (2.3):** MW team to advocate for a greater proportion of funds from the general Waterways & Drainage charge to be applied to carrier drain works in the District.

This led to a discussion of standards for run-off from developments. Frank observed that there is no way retarding basins ensure background flows are maintained. Teena explained that retarding basins slow the flows which then drain for longer (than pre-development flows). Frank responded that these higher flows for longer occur while the flood gates are shut. He asked for an update on the value of horticulture compared to property values used to make the case for works elsewhere.

**NEW ACTION (2.4):** MW to discuss with MW flood team about using value of horticulture in their assessment of cost/benefit of works rather than just number of houses flooded.

**NEW ACTION (2.5):** MW to provide information on how the precept rate is charged, by title or by property?

Matt noted that how carrier drains are defined is affected by the boundary of the District, since some smaller drains originate outside the District as well as the main carrier drains. This is an issue to be addressed in the refreshed Customer Charter.

#### *New Pricing Submission*

The Committee discussed the history of its support for a rate increase and the Essential Services Commission (ESC) feedback that more

community engagement was required first. Tom foreshadowed that people from MW's engagement team would brief the Committee on the proposed engagement process for the next Pricing Submission.

*Process for raising issues relating to maintenance/ works*

Garry asked if issues raised with Council were passed on to MW. Brendan advised that Cardinia Shire does pass on issues to relevant authorities, but does not necessarily ask the same questions as MW would. He said it was preferable to go direct to MW.

There was discussion of the effectiveness of lodging issues with MW's Call Centre. Paul explained that this was useful, as the issue was then logged. He said it would be fine if members of the Committee also notified one of the team present at the meeting (including Stuart Cochrane) to ensure a quick response.

There is a specific email address for everyone in Koo Wee Rup to use - [kooweerup@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:kooweerup@melbournewater.com.au) to let us know about issues.

Frank raised an issue with the road at Cora Lynn ford becoming a sand trap and stopping water going over the spillway. Brendan confirmed that a large amount of sand had been collected from this location. Frank commented that there was no clear datum/ bottom level for the channel at this point.

**NEW ACTION (2.6):** Tom to confirm bottom level with Keith Boniface and work out with Council who does what in remediation of Cora Lynn ford post flood events.

Frank complimented MW on flood gate maintenance which he said was much better than it used to be.

Teena advised that she had had an internal meeting with colleagues at Baw Baw Shire and would be providing a list of issues to MW in due course. (Teena to provide to Melbourne Water)

*Mapping of works*

Tom showed a 'works planning' map which showed District drains colour-coded according to risk. Matt commented that in the last five years, the Committee been provided with useful maps that showed the capacities of the drain (in terms of frequency of flooding). Paul said that the risk ratings reflected these capacities and the map being developed would also capture the locations where the Committee members had raised issues to be addressed. He said that giving the members access to this map for information between meetings could be investigated.

## 2.2 Revised Terms of Reference

The revisions to align with the current membership and meeting cycle were noted. It was agreed to include in the list of topics that MW would consult the Committee on (in Section 1.3 Role and Function) the rate increase and boundary realignments.

### 3. Actions from previous meetings Presenter/ status

- 3.1 **Review of Actions and Issues lists** Tom
- These were discussed by exception (see attached, as referred to in the meeting).
- KWR-P-1 (Cora Lynn) – Paul said MW does not have legislative power to be a road manager so they are working with Cardinia Shire on a solution for opening/ closing the road and/or alternative arrangements.
  - KWR-P-9 (Martins Drain Wetland) – Teena has provided more info to Tom.
  - KWR-P-10 (Bunyip Main Drain) – complete, Ivy sprayed; Sue is happy to see Cape Ivy dying.
  - NP-3 (Deep Ck Retarding Basin) – Ben Lamont reported that it appeared his predecessor (Ben Wood) was the only one who knew about it. Sue said her environment group wanted to see a wetland established; who was responsible? Tom undertook to find out.

### 4. MW Works update Presenter

- 4.1 **Current and future precept works** MW
- Capital (funded from Waterways & Drainage charge)*
- Adam reported that the willow removal program from Cora Lynn to the highway would soon be complete. He noted the example of replanting at Sue's property that had been most successful.
- Adam reported that debris had been cleared from the KWR rail bridge yet again. The concern is that it may collapse and pull down the bank with it.
- A range of works have been completed at the Aero Club at Fowler Road, Cardinia Toomuc – Lower Gum Scrub Ck: clearing of flood gates, clearing blackberry and broom, cutting access tracks along levees.
- Maintenance*
- Tom reported on desilts of Deep Creek, Deep Creek Catch Drain, Muddy Gates Drain, Tooradin Inlet Drain, 13 Mile Drain outside the District but important Hornbuckle Extension Drain and Western Outfall Drain.
- He asked members to let MW know if standards of work change, as the contractors have some new employees.
- 4.2 **Recent customer survey results**
- Paul reported that there had been improvements in the results but, statistically, they were not significant. It had proved difficult to encourage participation in the survey, despite the incentives on offer (\$10 to WaterAid - a Charity).

### 5. Stakeholder feedback/ general business Presenter

- 5.1 **Progress updates** - refer to Issues Register  
See notes above

5.2 **New feedback / AOB**

Members

- Sue said that someone on 14 Mile Road had contacted her about an application for a planning permit at Garfield for a large importation of soil, ostensibly because the adjacent drains are not functioning correctly. Concerns include the impacts on drainage as well as the potential for contamination with the importing of soil. MW is a referral authority and so will consider the application;
- Con reported a lack of follow up from contact with MW’s Call Centre [KWR Levee removal works]. He had rung Stu/Tom. Adam believed it had been referred to Major Projects Vic. MW will check.
- Sue undertook to provide more information about an issue on Martins Road Drain and also weeds on Enticotts Drain. Paul commented that there are overlaps of multiple responsibilities for weed management. Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, weed and pest control is required of the landholder. Under the Water Act 1989 Melbourne Water also has responsibility for weeds in relation to waterways. It was noted that MapShare (<https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/>) has ownership details. [UPDATE BY STU COCHRANE AFTER THE MTG: Enticotts Drain has been inspected and will have works done (desilt) either this financial year or next.]

**6. Next meeting**

**Presenter**

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| 6.1 | 1-3pm, Thursday 14 March on Zoom, including presentation/ discussion with MW engagement team re consultation on the new Pricing Submission | Bruce Turner |
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