

Meeting minutes (draft)

Title:	Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee - No 14
Meeting date:	Thursday, 24 November 2022
Meeting time:	12.50 for 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Location:	Zoom link previously circulated
Attendees:	Bruce Turner, Ian Anderson, Matthew Coleman, Frank Rovers, Susan Anderson, Con Raffa, Ben Wood (Cardinia SC), Teena Mathew (Baw Baw SC), Paul Rees (MW), Stuart Cochrane (MW), Adam Ryan (MW), Tom le Cerf (MW), Sophie Kinerman (MW) Apologies: John Hobson, Jo Fontana, Robert Mure, Paul Bucys and Kuan Yeoh (Casey)
Chairperson:	Bruce Turner
Note takers:	Paul, Bruce and Tom

1. Welcome, apologies and Committee Renewal process

Presenter

1.00 1.1 Welcome & apologies Bruce Turner (Chair)

Bruce welcomed everyone and invited Paul Rees (MW's new Area Manager Peninsula and Westernport, Waterway and Catchment Operations) to introduce himself. He also welcomed Ben Wood who was representing Cardinia Council while a replacement for Olivia Akdeniz was found.

1.2 Committee Renewal process Sophie Kinerman

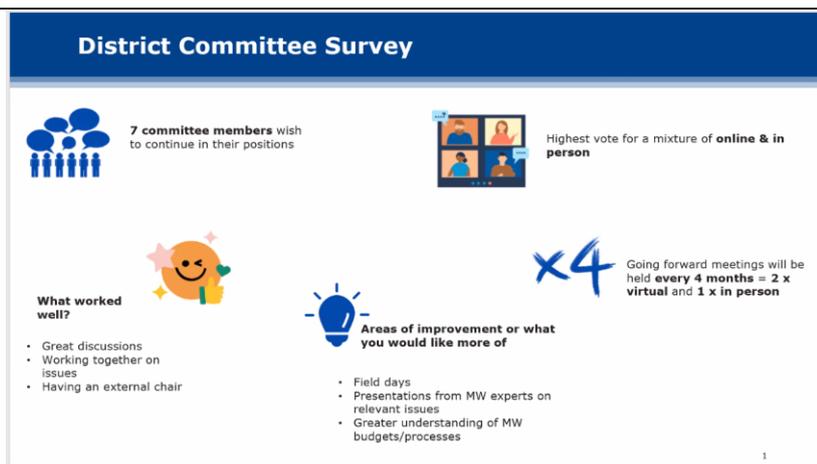
Feedback from Advisory Committee member survey

Recruitment of new members

Sophie reported that the caretaker period prior to the election had prevented Melbourne Water from being able to advertise and appoint any new members for the committee. This will now be done in the New Year. John Hobson has decided to end his time on the committee, so at least one new member will be required.

The proposal is to go out to the community and seek expressions of interest to join the committee. If Melbourne Water are inundated with responses for this, the committee may need to go through a more formal process of spilling and filling for all members. However if we receive limited interested (considered most likely) then we are proposing to extend the tenure of those interested in staying on the committee. Matt commented that he believed it was healthy for any group to have some renewal.

[A summary of the results of the district committee survey](#)



The responses regarding frequency of meetings were fairly evenly split between staying with the status quo (4 meetings per year) and moving to 3 meetings per year. The proposal was put to change from 4 to 3 meetings a year (every 4 months) with two virtual meetings and one in person. It was proposed that the next meeting in March be an in-person one with a site visit. These proposed changes were supported by the committee.

There was discussion about the ability to have special meetings, as required if there were significant events. Whilst this is possible, MW representatives indicated they would prefer issues were raised with them immediately, and not wait for a meeting. As Frank commented, this means it would be good for members to have contact details of the key MW personnel involved in the District.

There were some concerns from the community about calling a call centre, they would prefer a direct contact. Tom and Stu indicated Melbourne Water's preference for raising issues is via Melbourne Water's call centre 131 722 (based at their head office in Melbourne) or enquiry@melbournewater.com.au. That way the calls are logged, allocated and responded to in a timely fashion. Con acknowledged this and said he refers landowners who contact him with issues to contact the call centre.

However, it was also understood that some people want to continue to contact Stuart directly. This is okay, but it must be understood that there is a greater risk of non-response, as if Stuart is away, they won't automatically be directed to someone else.

2. Actions from previous meetings

Presenter/ status

1.15	<p>ACTION 4.2 follow up: (re MW guidelines for new culverts) Update on progress with consultant review OPEN Still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting.</p> <p>ACTION 7.7 Adam to report on options considered re alternatives to gates at Cora Lynn OPEN Still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting.</p>	Tom at Item 5 Adam at Item 4
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ACTION 13.2: Charter to be refreshed; draft circulated for feedback (incl. **ACTION 11.1:** Re roles & responsibilities one-pager)– **ONGOING**

Sophie at Item 3

As recorded below, this has been put on hold pending the engagement with the community, as it potentially need to be modified depending on the outcomes of this engagement.

ACTION 13.3 Link to update map to be circulated when complete – **CLOSED**

Demonstration of map provided by Adam.

NEW ACTION 14.1 Stuart and Adam to ensure that all of the desilt works are showing on the map, as some currently appear to be missing

3. Customer Charter Review Presenter

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| 3.1 | Communications and Engagement Plan update – including progress with Precept Charge change, and Roles/ Responsibilities one-pager
Sophie reported that the Communications and Engagement process had been reviewed in light of ESC expectations on the extent of consultation on the new Precept Charge. As a result, the process has been pushed out into the New Year. The committee should expect to see a draft of the Customer Charter in Apr/May 2023. The committee’s July meeting would then be a good time to report back on the consultation process. | Sophie |
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4. Works update Presenter

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| 4.1 | Delivery team ‘realignment’
The Melbourne Water delivery team has recently gone through a realignment. Clint Hendry (Program Lead) and his on-ground works crew are now based at the Melbourne Water Koo Wee Rup office. This is allowing a more responsive approach to urgent works in the Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Flood Protection District | Paul, Tom |
| 4.2 | Maintenance works update (incl. update on recent flooding)
Melbourne Water have been doing urgent works to remove blockages and debris, prior to, during and post the recent flood events. Further works are currently being investigated. | Stu |
| 4.3 | Capital works (incl. Cora Lyn gates issue – ACTION 7.7)
Still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting. Sue said she’d appreciate a higher level discussion re how willow removal works are tackled. Adam said he was happy to discuss that separately with Sue. | Adam |
| 4.4 | Future works planning
Stuart is currently scoping up a desilting project for Longwarry Drain. Post this project he can then work his way further up this system, but is working up from the bottom, to clear the lowest blockages first. | Stu |

5. Focus area updates		Presenter
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5.1	Provide updates on Four focus areas and any works planned or undertaken. Focus on key progress.	Tom
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Focus Area 1 Enhancing and managing the function of drains

- Including update on flood modelling study and risk-based maintenance project (**ACTION 13.6**)

Tom reported the modelling study is still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting. He said the model will be really critical and allow for much more fine-grained detail than the current 40m grid that is meaningless for creeks in the FPD. More progress next year hopefully.

Matt asked what area is covered – catchment or FPD? Tom said that while the FPD is the focus, it makes sense to include tributaries near Matt’s property and waterways that snake in and out of the district. There will be discussion between MW and Cardinia about this.

Focus area 2 Managing impacts of development on flow volumes, amenity etc; incl updates on:

- Guidelines for new culverts (**ACTION 4.2**)
Still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting.
- Progress with Healesville to KWR Road upgrade modelling and landowner engagement (**ACTION 13.4**)
Still in progress, no additional updates since last meeting.
- Lower Gum Scrub Creek flood retarding basin (Aero Club) update (**ACTION 13.5**)

Melbourne Water met on site with the Aero Club and Cardinia council earlier in the week. They are investigating and following up a number of actions in the nearby creeks/drains.

Focus Area 3 Disaster management – climate change, climate extremes, contamination, fires across swamp, water pollution event

No additional updates since last meeting.

Focus area 4 Communication roles and responsibilities – user friendly advice – who’s responsible (see Item 3.1 - Charter)

No additional updates since last meeting.

6. Community feedback/ general business		Presenter
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6.1	Reponses to community feedback from last meeting (ACTION 13.7)	ALL
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John suggested that the level of vegetation in Cardinia Creek was inappropriate. MW responded that regular maintenance occurs and will continue to be reviewed

Melbourne Water is reviewing this along with lots of other vegetation in drains across the region.

Sue asked about plans for Deep Creek Retarding Basin (near Golf Club Pakenham) – north of railway line and freeway. Query on when this is planned to be constructed and operational – this will need to be confirmed.

Ben Wood advised that this is his Council's responsibility. They are working on it, but the drainage is very complicated. Sue indicated that Cardinia Environmental Coalition are very frustrated with how long this is taking.

Matt asked about Hornbuckle Road extension – MW will seek additional information on this.

No additional updates since last meeting.

6.2 New community feedback

- a) General concerns about flooding and the time it is taking for flood water to dissipate. Given three very wet years, the ground is now fully saturated and so close to 100% of rainfall is running off into creeks (compared to 20-60% running off under normal conditions). This means that there will be elevated base-flows (higher non-rainfall water levels in drains and therefore less capacity for additional flows) and even small rainfall events will likely result in flooding.
- b) The community would like an investigation into whether a flood gate is feasible on Deep Creek Catch Drain. **Tom to follow up.**
- c) Concerns about the drains feeding into Longwarry Drain. **Stuart will follow up** with these once the desilt of Longwarry Drain is complete.
- d) Concerns that all the drains downstream of Manks Road need clearing out. What does maintenance look like with native vegetation?
- e) Concerns that the willow removal program is causing additional sedimentation and increased flow rates. As an example, Ian reported an issue with the Bunyip River where a long-term resident is alarmed at velocity of flow at the moment. Adam said he had spoken with them and is getting data for them from a MW gauge (this gauge is accessible on MW website at: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/rainfall-and-river-levels#/reader/228213A>).

Sue said she had also spoken with the landowner. There's more action in the water at his place; logs were slowing the water; with them cleared, the flows are faster. Adam commented that logs had to be taken to be able to access willows for removal. He felt the high rainfall and a lot of water moving through the system were more significant factors than the log removal itself. Melbourne Water have been witnessing sedimentation issues across the catchment, even where no willow removal occurring (eg Cora Lynn ford). Indicating that multiple causes are more likely, including recent significant amounts of rainfall (eg Drouin West Gauge 238mm in last 30 days). **Adam to continue working directly with the**

concerned landholder and the committee can review the state of the Bunyip at its March meeting.

- f) Concerns around Yallock Creek downstream of Bayles, seems blocked, limited flow. Currently leased, Stuart is encouraging the leasing and licencing team to not renew any leases which come up in the district, as they are hampering Melbourne Water's ability to manage the area.
- g) Concerns around the use of corflute guards where flooding is possible. Suggestion of using mesh or something else, which won't get washed away and end up in Westernport.
Adam/Stuart to consider alternatives.

ACTION 14.2 MW to report on progress with addressing/responding to these issues.

7. Meeting conclusion		Presenter
7.1	Next meeting – Thursday 23 March 2023 (tentatively a 10am meeting followed by field trip to sites of interest in the district)	