



# ***WATER RESOURCES RETIREES' ASSOCIATION INC.***

**MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

**CLUB CENTRAL  
84 WILLIAM ST, BRISBANE, QLD 4000**

<b>Opening:</b>	<p>The meeting was opened at 11.05pm by the Chairman, Geoff Eades.</p> <p>Geoff welcomed members, their guests and our Co-Patrons, Dan Hunt and Peter Boettcher</p>
<b>Present and Apologies:</b>	<p>The list of attendees and apologies is attached</p>
<b>Memorial:</b>	<p>The Chair noted that a number of our members, family of members and non-member work colleagues had passed away during the year</p> <p>A moments silence was observed in memory of: Norm White, Alan Wallis, Cecila Redmond, Rhonnda Ullman, David Morward, Cornelis Kalf, Eric Robinson, Kyle Waye, John Cowles, Mick Sievers and Sandra Hazel</p>
<b>Address by Co-Patrons:</b>	<p><b>Dan Hunt, D-G, Dept of Energy and Water Supply</b></p> <p>The following is a summary of Dan's address:</p> <p>The election result in January and the consequent establishment of a new Government had come as a surprise to many people. Despite this, the transition to the new Government has been one of the smoothest experienced with only a few impacts from the machinery of Government (MOG) changes. A guiding principle of the new Government seems to be stability. No jobs have been put at risk, although, as all are aware from the media, all Directors-General positions have been advertised.</p> <p>Within the first two weeks of the new Government, Queensland faced the impact of Cyclone Marcia. There was a steep learning curve for the new Ministerial line up as they came to grips with dealing with a natural disaster and</p>

the roles each had to play in a co-ordinated response. The 24 hour staffing of the emergency centre at Kedron proved its worth and overall the disaster management process worked well.

The Government initiated an inquiry into the operation of Callide Dam following the flooding in Biloela and Jambin. An initial need was to explain the operation of a water storage during a flood event to help the Ministers understand the process of managing a flood through a dam and the implications of it. The immediate need for this slowed the induction of the new Ministers into the wider responsibilities of their portfolios.

The previous Government had proposed the construction of three new dams in Queensland. This proposal is subject to review by the new Government but funding constraints may limit further work. It is anticipated that a decision will be forthcoming towards the middle of the year.

The new Government appears to be positively disposed to the local management of the irrigation areas but as yet not had the opportunity to fully consider it. One likely outcome is that a trial process may be undertaken on a limited number of areas.

Within the Department, the investigations into regional water security continue. Reports have been released for the Townsville and Cairns areas. Reports on the Maryborough and Hervey Bay areas are expected to be completed in the near future.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Flood Commission of Enquiry continues. To date some 30 of the 46 recommendations have been implemented.

### **Peter Boettcher, CEO, Sunwater**

Peter's address is summarised below:

As could be expected, the change in Government in January led to some changes in focus for SunWater and as a result there will be some slight adjustment to its structure particularly in respect of integrating staffing arrangements (put in place to reflect the policy directions of the previous Government) back together in SunWater.

Meetings with the shareholding Ministers have been positive. Organisation stability is a focus of the Government. The proposed sale of water pipelines is not on the current Government's agenda. In respect of local management of irrigation schemes the position is not yet clear, with the government reserving its position on this at this stage.

The market position is soft with, apart from the Adani mine development, no major resource project commencing development in the near future. There have

	<p>been some discussions with Adani, but these are not current.</p> <p>Further work is to be carried out to complete the restoration of Paradise Dam. Additionally, there are other storages where work is required to repair damage.</p> <p>The Wandoan to Glebe Weir pipeline has been completed. It was brought in under budget. The long term contract with QGC provides a stable base for the future operation of the pipeline and use of water from the weir.</p> <p>Investigations are continuing on Nathan Dam, primarily on environmental issues raised by the existence of a rare boggomoss snail that lives in small swampy areas where artesian groundwater reaches the surface. A number of additional sites where the snail occurs outside the dam have been identified but these have not been appropriately taken into account in the recovery plan for the snail. Consequently, amendments are required to the recovery plan. The primary focus at present is to get the environmental approval in place, experience having taught that this is essential to provide certainty to potential customers.</p> <p>The Government is undertaking the review of Callide Dam, in particular to understand whether the release of water resulted in flooding of houses in Biloela and Jambin. It is important that the review be transparent and open to the public. The rainfall event that caused the gates to operate automatically was an extreme event, now estimated to be a once in 4000 year event. With a small catchment, the resultant flood was of short duration, but high and rose very fast.</p> <p>The Callide event held some wider lessons for SunWater that are applicable to other storages. These lessons fall within a number of categories, viz, dam operation, communication, media management and education. In respect of the last of these, SunWater has been and will continue to meet with the emergency response agencies in the smaller centres that are host to a major water storage. The objective is to improve the knowledge as to how the storages operate in a rain event and hence improve emergency response to an event.</p> <p>Being able to respond quickly to the effects and damage of the flood events of 2014 has shown the value of the model under which SunWater now operates. It was able to finance the remedial work of flood damage from its own financial resources requiring only the approval of its Board rather than of Government before proceeding with remedial work. It also reflects the strength of SunWater both financially and commercially that these financial demands could be met from its own resources.</p> <p><b>Thank you to our Co-Patrons</b>  The President, Geoff Eades, thanked Dan and Peter for their presentations. Members appreciate the time Peter and Dan put aside to attend and the openness in their presentations.</p>
<p><b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the</b></p>	<p>The draft minutes of the previous AGM had been made available to members before the meeting. The minutes were taken as being read.</p>

<p><b>previous AGM:</b></p>	<p>Moved Peter Jones, Seconded Brian Shannon, that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u><b>Carried</b></u></p>
<p><b>Business Arising from the Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>(a) Amendment to the Constitution</b>  At the last AGM, an amendment to the Constitution was passed to provide for the inclusion of the Web Master on the Management Committee.  The Secretary advised that the Office of Fair Trading has approved the amendment.</p> <p><b>(b) Use of the Internet and Email</b>  As foreshadowed at the previous meeting, the Association was moving towards greater use of the internet and email for communications with members. Members will have noticed this increase. Currently, 2/3 of our members receive all contact via these means.</p> <p><b>(c) SeqWater</b>  The President met with SeqWater during the year to discuss developing a relationship between it and the Association. The President has written to SeqWater following the meeting and will follow up with them again. Of particular interest is SeqWater's group of senior staff that play a mentoring role with younger staff.  Brian Shannon advised that that SeqWater had said that they would welcome us if we wished to visit Heinze Dam later this year.</p>
<p><b>Reports:</b></p>	<p><b>(a) President's Report</b>  The President, Geoff Eades, presented his report to the meeting. A copy of the Report is attached.   Moved Peter Jones, Seconded Brian Shannon that the President's Report be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u><b>Carried</b></u></p> <p><b>(b) Treasurer's Report</b>  Ross Stewart presented the Treasurer's Report and the audited statement of accounts. A copy of the Report is attached.   Moved Ross Stewart, Seconded Ian Ferrier, that the Treasurer's Report, statement of expenditure and receipts and the Auditors report be accepted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u><b>Carried</b></u></p>
<p><b>Election of Office Bearers:</b></p>	<p>The President, Geoff Eades, stood down from the Chair and was replaced by the Eric Davis. All positions were declared vacant.</p>

	<p>Written nominations had been received for  Mike Merrin for Vice President  Pat McCourt for Committee members</p> <p>The other Committee members, namely Geoff Eades (President), Peter Jones (Secretary), Ross Stewart (Treasurer) and Terry Loos (Committee Member), have all indicated their willingness to continue in the positions.</p> <p>Brian Shannon, Vice President in 2013/14 has advised that he will not be standing for the position for 2015-16</p> <p>With only one nomination for the position of Vice President, the Acting Chair declared Mike Merrin appointed to that position.</p> <p>As the other Management Committee members from 2014/15 have indicated their willingness to continue in their positions and in the light of there being no other nominees, the Acting Chair declared the continuing Committee members appointed to their positions.</p> <p>Office bearers for 2015/16 are:</p> <p>President – Geoff Eades  Vice President – Mike Merrin  Treasurer – Ross Stewart  Secretary – Peter Jones  Committee Members (2)  Pat McCourt  Terry Loos</p> <p>The President, Geoff Eades resumed the Chair</p>
<p><b>Co-Patrons:</b></p>	<p>Both current Co-Patrons, Dan Hunt (DG DEWS) and Peter Boettcher (CEO SunWater) have indicated their willingness to continue in the roles.</p> <p>Their appointment was confirmed</p>
<p><b>Auditor:</b></p>	<p>Ray Sutherland has indicated his willingness to continue as the Association's Auditor.</p> <p>His appointment was confirmed</p>
<p><b>General Business:</b></p>	<p>(a) <b>Mid Year Luncheon</b></p> <p>As this AGM saw the Association complete thirty years of life, the President outlined plans for the Mid-Year lunch to be a celebration of that longevity. It is planned to host as many of the past Committee members as we are able at the lunch.</p> <p>Further information will be forthcoming towards the end of May</p> <p>The lunch is to be held on Thursday 25 June.</p>

	<p><b>(b) Responsible Minister</b>          Ian Ferrier asked who is the minister responsible for the Dept of Electricity and Water Supply in the new Government.          Dan Hunt advised that Mark Bailey is the Minister for Main Roads, Ports, Road Safety, Electricity and Water Supply.          Peter Boettcher advised that SunWater lies within Minister Bailey’s portfolio responsibilities and that he is also one of shareholding ministers for SunWater, the other being the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt.</p> <p><b>(c) Paradise Dam Model</b>          Brian Shannon raised the interest of members viewing the video of the Paradise Dam 3D model.          Peter Boettcher advised that the model is still running (at a scale of 1:70, it is the largest hydraulic model in Australia) as well as the Boondooma Dam model. Additionally, a numerical model is to be prepared for each storage.</p>
<p><b>Closure:</b></p>	<p>The Meeting closed at approx 12.10pm at which time members moved to lunch.</p>

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# ***WATER RESOURCES RETIREES' ASSOCIATION INC.***

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
<b>Members</b> Geoff Eades Ross Stewart Peter Jones Brian Shannon Terry Loos Pat McCourt Jon Henry Ian Ferrier Eric Davis Errol Beitz Chris Robson Daryl Brigden Alan Seabrook Bruce Peace Rolfe Rose Mike Merrin Tony Horn	Carol Davison John Morse Lee Rogers Ian Pullar Jim Uhlmann Hein van der Heide Col Hazel Phil James Bruce Edwards Peter Gilbey Greg Long Bill Eastgate Ian White Terry Roos Kev Devlin Bill Meredith John Connolly Grahame Bertram
<b>Guests</b> Peter Boettcher Dan Hunt Karla Henry Marie Rose	

# **Water Resources Retirees Association**

## **Annual General Meeting 30 April 2015**

### **President's Report 2014-2015**

#### **Report**

It is with pleasure that I present this report for the year 2014-2015. This AGM marks the thirtieth year of the Association since its birth.

This year the Association has continued to carry out its objectives of promoting social interaction among members, in particular, by our newsletter and, increasingly, through our website. Our newsletter was first issued in September 1989 and continues to be an important source of information.

This year's change of government will no doubt bring some policy changes at SunWater and the Department of Energy and Water Supply. We look forward to hearing from our co-patrons as to how this will affect our former colleagues in these organisations.

#### **Membership**

The membership of our Association is currently 201, a decrease of 3 compared to last year. The membership comprises 98 ordinary members, 42 country members, 31 paid up members (over 75 years) and 30 widowed spouse members.

Five new members joined during the year. They are Mark Griffiths, Ian White, John Read, Greg Long and Ray Brown. We warmly welcome these new members to the Association.

Members removed from our register because of lost contact are Daph Morrison, Merv Brand, Andy Winkler, Tom Warburton, Graham Grant and Dianne Harvey.

Membership of the Association is open to retired or presently serving employees of what was the former Water Resources Commission and its succeeding bodies. These are now primarily the Department of Energy and Water Supply and SunWater, but employees of other water agencies are also welcome.

Maintaining membership numbers is an ongoing issue particularly as responsibility for water management is increasingly fragmented among government agencies. The recruitment of new members has been a focus of the outgoing committee and no doubt will continue to be so for the incoming committee. This year we made contact with Seqwater and hope to forge links with that organisation so that we can widen our potential member base. I urge all members to assist in identifying potential members and either invite them to join the Association or refer their names to the Secretary. As you know, membership fees are minimal.



We extend our condolences to the relatives and friends of those members who passed away during the year. Where possible, these were acknowledged in our newsletters and we have again remembered them earlier in today's AGM.

The Committee appreciates early advice to the Secretary from friends or relatives, of the illness or passing of a member. A phone call or email will help the Secretary with the timely distribution of such information, so that where possible members have an opportunity to support the family at that time.

## Functions

It was another big year for social functions. Seven were organised with attendance as follows:

April 2014	AGM and Lunch at Club Central (21 members and friends)
June 2014	Mid-year luncheon at COTAH (29 members and friends)
August 2014	Bowls day at Aspley Bowls Club (18 members and friends)
September 2014	Visit to QIMR (15 members and friends)
October 2014	Presentation on Optimising Floods through Wivenhoe Dam (21 members and friends)
November 2014	Christmas Lunch at COTAH (56 members and friends)
February 2015	Lunch at Club Central (24 members and friends)

It was very pleasing to the committee to see the high level of interest in these functions. The new committee will be drawing up the program for 2015-16 at their next meeting. Suggestions from members for that program are always welcome.

One of the initiatives planned for the coming year is a celebration of our thirtieth year. This will be done by bringing together, at our mid-year luncheon, as many former committee members as possible.

Terry Loos has again provided challenging and enjoyable trivia quizzes at our COTAH Luncheons and by popular demand, they are planned to be included again this year.

## Newsletter

Ian Pullar has once again done an excellent job in producing a further 3 issues of our Newsletter. This year Ian has had a good response for articles of interest and hopes this continues. In addition, Ian would very much like readers to send in news of members and former colleagues for the remaining issues this year. Therefore send a note to Ian as soon as you see, hear or read something that may be of interest to others.

The Newsletter is vital for our organisation. Few of our country members can participate in our social functions and the newsletter provides a link between our country and city members. Also some of our older city members are finding it increasingly difficult to attend. DEWS, DNRM and SunWater staff members are notified of new issues of the Newsletter through internal emails. Ian, thanks for a job well done!

## **Website**

Our website has been operational since July 2010. We are indebted to Jon Henry (as our Webmaster) for the ongoing maintenance of the site.

Thanks to an initiative by our Secretary, the website has significantly reduced the cost to SunWater of printing and mailing the Newsletter and other notices. More than 130 of our members now receive these electronically. Our webmaster has provided the following figures to illustrate the website's effectiveness. In the six days following the announcement of the meeting papers for this year's AGM, there were 41 downloads of those papers. After the announcement of the most recent Newsletter there were 131 downloads in six days. So it appears that almost all of our members with email addresses are accessing the website for the newsletter. The website is also being accessed to a lesser extent by staff of government departments and SunWater when they are advised by management.

The web site is a convenient location where past issues of the Newsletter can be viewed. You are encouraged to visit the website from time to time, and make contributions to the Webmaster when you have some appropriate material for publication.

The Minutes of the AGM and the President's & Treasurer's Reports, will be posted on our website in the coming weeks as we have done in previous years.

## **Finance**

The Treasurer will report that our finances continue to remain sound. Our target of running our functions at or near cost has substantially been achieved. There is a small deficit this year resulting in part from our one off \$600 donation to QIMR.

It is proposed that membership subscriptions remain unchanged, while the Association continues to receive its current level of support from SunWater and DEWS.

## **Management Committee**

The Management Committee met for 5 formal meetings during the year. Committee members also met on other occasions to arrange the mailouts for the flyers and newsletters.

My thanks go to Brian Shannon, our Vice President, and to Hein van der Heide, our Immediate Past President, for their support and advice to me and the Committee during the year, and in particular for organising functions and taking over the running of meetings when I have been absent over the last 12 months. Brian is moving to the Sunshine Coast this year and will not be renominating for Vice President. The Committee wishes him and wife Joanne all the best in this change.

Committee Members have also readily undertaken the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, when Peter Jones and Ross Stewart were absent.

My thanks also to our Secretary, Peter Jones. Peter ably carries out the day to day running of the Association and the organisation of functions and meetings.

Thanks also to our committee members Pat McCourt and Terry Loos who capably supported the committee with their time and participation.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the support of our co-patrons, Mr Dan Hunt, the Director General of Department of Energy and Water Supply, and Mr Peter Boettcher, CEO of SunWater for their continuing strong support of the Association.

We would like to thank Peter Boettcher and SunWater staff for their support in the printing and mailing of our Newsletter and providing a meeting place for our management committee over the past five years.

Our thanks go out once again to our Auditor, Ray Sutherland for undertaking the important task of ensuring that our financial statements are compliant with the legislative requirements, placed on an incorporated association such as ours.

**Geoff Eades**  
**President**

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**Water Resources Retiree's Association Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting – 30 April 2015**  
**Treasurer's Report – 2014-2015**

I have pleasure in presenting to Members a report on the financial affairs of the Water Resources Retiree's Association Inc. for the 2014 – 2015 year.

The Association's Financial Year runs from 1 April to the following 31 March.

The 2014-2015 Financial Statement shows that the Association has a deficit of income over expenditure for the year of \$1,047.71.

One of the Association's major sources of income is Membership Subscriptions. Membership Subscriptions received this year (\$292.500) is lower than subscriptions received last year (\$585.00). This is mainly due to the smaller number of members billed in the financial year and members requesting Paid Up status having reached the age of 75 years.

Interest on the Suncorp Term Deposit (\$312.68) is the other major source of Income and is significantly lower than last year (\$649.97) due to the shorter maturing term and lower interest rates available for term deposits.

The Association's operating expenditure each year is minimal comprising reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses to the President, Secretary and Treasurer, other operating expenditure and the cost of the lunch following the Annual General Meeting (\$237.00 in April 2014). Operating expenses associated with the ongoing operation of the Association's website (\$179.40) is a cost effective way of communicating with the Members.

The Committee made a donation to the QIMR Berghofer Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane of \$600 following a special guided tour for Members in October.

A summary of the major expenditure and income of the Association is shown in the attached Statement of Receipts and Payments.

All other functions of the Association are planned to be self funding with those Members attending paying for the cost of the function. The Mid-Year Luncheon this year incurred a loss of \$217.90 and the Christmas Luncheon made a profit of \$126.16 due to late negotiation on the luncheon payment. The Committee pays for visiting guests and guest speakers.

**Term Deposit with Suncorp:**

The Term Deposit has been renewed as required at the best available interest rate of 3.00% and will be next renewed on 25 June 2015.

**2014-2015 Membership Subscriptions:**

The 2014-2015 Membership Subscriptions are due for payment by 30 April 2015. A total of 10 Membership Renewal Invoices were sent out with the notice of the Annual General Meeting and a further 32 were emailed to members who have provided email addresses. The committee is progressively moving towards electronic communication with Members and would appreciate those members who have not advised the Secretary of their email address to provide it if they can.

As per this year, Members have been asked to pay four years of Membership Subscriptions at the one time as has been requested in their subscription notice as yearly fees are very low.

Membership is currently 201 comprised of 42 Country members, 98 Ordinary members (Brisbane and surrounding regions), 31 Paid Up members aged over 75 (Country and Ordinary), and 30 nonpaying Spouses.

**Auditor:**

Ray Sutherland has been the Association's Auditor for a number of years. I thank Ray for auditing the Associations accounts again this year.

Ray is available to be appointed as Auditor for 2015-2016 and I recommend the Annual Meeting confirm this appointment.

**Secretary:**

I thank the Association's Secretary Peter Jones for his cooperation and assistance in keeping my "Membership Billing Spreadsheet" in sync with the Association's Membership Database thus ensuring that the "Annual Billing List" is correct and also in many other matters.

**Thank You:**

I thank President Geoff Eades and the respective Committee Members for their friendship, assistance and advice during the year.

Ross Stewart  
18 April 2015