

WAKOOL LANDHOLDERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 15th October, 2020

Meeting Opened: 7.41 pm

Present: Guests –Phil Snowden, Michael Pisasale, Ryan Gleeson Murray Irrigation & Sophie Baldwin SRI & 30 members.

Apologies: Phil Henry, Peter Redfearn , Steve Fawns, Noel Baxter, Mitch Redfearn, Chris Brookes, Wander Van Beek, Brian Martin, Peter Maine and Dudley Bibby.

Welcome:

Thank you all for coming tonight, special mention to Murray Irrigation Phil Snowden, Ryan Gleeson & Michael Pisasale as well as Sophie Baldwin from SRI takes the workload off SRI Phil and Ryan, Michael P. In future we will try harder to hold the AGM at a less busy time.

Minutes of Previous AGM Meeting dated 7th November, 2019

Minutes of General Meeting dated 14th July, 2020

Minutes carried as being a true and accurate record – **Moved by Darcy Hare and Seconded by Blair Flight.**

Carried

Business Arising from previous AGM

Motions were read from previous meeting and discussion as follows.

Darcy Hare gave an update on the Land and water Management Funding – he was advised that the funding will go to the landholding groups they were allocated to. They may look to previous chairs from when the plan was allocated to find out where the money was intended to be spent.

Phil Snowden – we will engage with landholders in the consultation process on where the funds can be spent but it is certain that it belongs to the landholders.

John Lolicato – most of it belongs to Berrigan and Wakool because of the way it was collected.

Ryan Gleeson – at a rough guess there is 8-9 million, with 6 million to Berrigan and 1 – 2 million to Wakool and the balance between the other two.

MOTION 1

That we seek clarification of the breakdown per landholder group of the funds that MIL hold in trust from the Land & Water Management Plans.

Moved John Lolicato
Seconded Mark Martin
CARRIED

Minutes & records from the Land and Water management plans were previously stored in the Wakool office and now nobody is sure where they are.

Michael Pisasale – there are so many boxes at the Wakool office that it would take someone weeks to sort through.

MOTION 2

That MIL finds, and grants access to the land and water management plan copies that were stored in the Wakool Office.

Moved Mark Martin
Seconded John Lolicato
CARRIED

EC credits

Darcy Hare– I have spoken with MIL a number of times and it never goes anywhere. Bring it up all the time.

John Lolicato - we were informed that no credits are issued to the sub surface drainage scheme. Pretty important part of infrastructure, urgent that we have a meeting with MIL to discuss plans for the scheme.

MOTION 3

That we call a meeting with MIL regarding the sub surface drainage scheme.

Moved John Lolicato
Seconded Greg Lodge
CARRIED

Correspondence

All correspondence has been circulated by email, you would be across what we have been discussing with SRI.

Darcy Hare moved that the correspondence was received.
Seconded Greg Lodge

CHAIR PERSON REPORT

A detailed report was emailed in the Wakool Landholders newsletter but to give an overview we have been incredibly busy dealing with a range of issues ranging from historical sharing agreements, water resource plans delivered without community support, sustainable diversion limits, dwindling end of valley targets, half delivered state and federal policy, water trading, downstream demand, Northern Basin compliance and metering and drought.

Really keen to get some more of the younger generation involved, it's your future and not just mine.

Darcy Hare moved that his report be received.
Seconded Greg lodge

Treasurers Report

Full details were presented in the financial report ending 30th June 2020 in the newsletter.

Full details are in the financial report ending 30th June 2020 to the left. The Financial report is audited by Robin May of Primary Concepts. Thank you to Robin who has audited our books for many years at no charge.

Bank Balances as at 5th October 2020

Cheque Account \$19,923

Term Deposit \$25,770

Although the profit and loss shows a deficit this is because of timings of payments for our executives were delayed while waiting for the increase in landholdings to occur.

Our Chair will receive an executive allowance of \$8000 for the financial year ending 30th June 2020 which has increased from \$5,000.

Landholding subs received from MIL total \$28,200 with the main expense being SRI membership at \$17,100, our executive subs will be \$9,000 leaving \$2,100 for general costs such as insurance and catering. The increase in landholding subs has allowed us to cover expenses for now.

Kate Redfearn moved that the treasurers report is accepted

Seconded David May

Carried

Election of Office Bearers:

All positions declared vacant.

Phil Snowden assumed the chair and thanked Darcy Hare for all he has done.

Nomination for Chairman:

Darcy Hare nominated by Dave May Seconded Blair Flight

Accepted

Carried.

Darcy Hare resumed the chair.

Nomination for Senior Vice Chair:

Shaun Thomas nominated by John Lolicato

Declined

Jono Alexander nominated by Dave May
Declined

Marcus Nalder by Mark Martin
Declined

Shaun Thomas by David May seconded Mark Martin
Accepted

Stacey Waylen nominated by Darcy Hare
Declined

John Lolicato nominated by Darcy Hare
Declined

CARRIED

John Lolicato – This is very important for the future of the landholders, the wakool landholders have been leading the charge and it is essential that we continue to do so.

Needs to be succession planning and a handover period. Local issues need to be looked at, someone to give Darcy a hand.

Nomination for Junior Vice Chair:

Jono Alexander nominated by Shaun Thomas
Decline

Marcus Nalder nominated by Mark Martin
Decline

Dave May nominated by Shaun Thomas
Decline

MOTION

The position of Junior Vice Chair is vacant and that the executive have the power to appoint someone to that position.

Moved John Lolicato

Seconded Emma Flight

CARRIED

Nominations for Treasurer & Secretary

Kate Redfearn nominated by John Lolicato seconded by Blair Flight
Accepted

Carried.

Nomination for Assistant Secretary:

Ann Hare nominated by Mark Martin Seconded Darcy Hare
Accepted

Carried.

Nominations for Zone Representatives 2016:

Zone 1 – Adam Gray	Accepted Absent
Zone 2 - Peter Redfearn	Accepted Absent
Zone 3 - Chris Mertz	Accepted Absent
Zone 4 - Dennis Gleeson	Accepted
Zone 5 - Neville Hollins	Accepted Absent
Zone 6 - Greg Lodge & Jono Alexander	Accepted
Zone 7 - Marcus Nalder	Accepted

Moved Mark Martin

Seconded Greg Lodge

Carried

Nomination for SRI Representatives:

1. Darcy Hare Accepted
2. Shaun Thomas Accepted

Moved John Lolicato

Seconded Mark Martin

Carried

Nomination for SRI Alternatives 2020

1. John Lolicato Accepted
2. Dennis Gleeson Accepted
3. Shane McNaul Accepted
4. Marcus Nalder Accepted
5. Jono Alexander Accepted
6. Anthony Thomas Accepted Absent
7. Chris Mertz Accepted Absent
8. Mark Martin Accepted

Moved Darcy Hare

Seconded Dave May

Carried

Public Officer –

Kate Redfearn was nominated by Darcy Hare seconded by Greg Lodge

Accepted

Carried.

Wakool Tullakool Sub Surface Drainage Advisory Scheme

1. David May
2. Darcy Hare
3. Jono Alexander
4. Mark Martin
5. John Lolicato
6. Neville Hollins
7. Shane McNaul

8. Michael Chalmers

Moved John Lolicato
Seconded Blair Flight
Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Murray Irrigation Report - Phil Snowden

Phil stated he was happy to take any questions and made the following points.

- The relationship between Murray Irrigation and SRI has improved.
- Although Murray Irrigation won't be seen lobbying in the public space, we will be taking the same issues to government.
- The AGM is coming up and will be held online this year.
- Back out to the shareholders again and engage on issues
- MIL has put funding into SRI

John Lolicato – Does MIL support transparency on who owns water entitlements?

Phil Snowden - MIL owns the bulk license and I don't think we have any issue of transparency, it was more compliance issues and there were going to be significant costs.

John Lolicato – CEWO are using this to their advantage and it is coming back to bite us. Sally Dye did the investigative work and noted licenses have been moved upstream. It is essential to get transparency

Phil Snowden - CEWO do pay transmission conveyance. They also pay conveyance on transfers. The fact that they are paying it is a precedent. I have been pushing that issue to anyone I can. Trying to work with environmental water holders to deliver more environmental water in our footprint.

Mark Martin – there was a major review going on last year. Where is it up to?

Phil Snowden – the review on staffing levels will be in the annual report. We don't want to cut it to the bones and then be unable to deliver.

We have these other top 4 projects - investing in water, environmental water, regional development and escapes. There are no major upgrades planned in infrastructure.

Mark Martin – is the review results available at the AGM or somewhere else?

Phil Snowden - We are constantly reviewing. Supplementary water and MIL did the best we could. Always under review. Important that the board not keep eating into the balance sheet. Maintenance of infrastructure has had a major review.

John Lolicato –can you confirm that MIL is not in negotiations with government re efficiency or SDLAM projects?

Phil – No, we are optimizing our system but not infrastructure

IPART AND ACCC update Michael Pisasale

Darcy, Sophie and I have been catching up together and talking to RMCG. There has been a significant hike in government fees and we are not happy about that. There is an average increase of 28% in one year alone. MDBA charge is 92% of that fee. Biggest part of the fee is the MDBA component.

Darcy Hare - there are two valleys in NSW that have costs that are based on what they can afford. Both are on the coast. So why aren't we looking at the same cost structure here.

SOPHIE BALDWIN

It has been a hectic month at SRI. We wanted to give SRI face and people see the farming families, which is the idea behind our Food for thought Magazine. Everyone will receive a copy of it and it is available on the website. Please share it and send to anybody. We are receiving some very positive feedback.

SRI have written to NRAR asking for legal clarity around the next large rainfall event and we ask you all to write to your federal, state and local MP, as well as the MDBA and NRAR on this matter. There is a template on the website to make it easier.

Chris Brookes and I met with Philip Glyde and had a decent debate, he left knowing our position.

Please contact us if you want something brought up.

John Lolicato– I would like to compliment SRI on the Food for thought magazine that shows what our region is capable of.

LLOYD POLKINGHORNE WALK FOR WATER

Lloyd explained that his walk had been postponed due to COVID and he is now looking at the 10th or 11th November. He is aiming to get engagement from all over the country and 2020 has been a good year for it as a lot of people stuck at home.

He aims to walk 20kms a day and then tell stories about the whole ecosystem of our environment.

Sophie Baldwin - SRI has the Eureka flag for sale and all money is donated to Lloyd's walk.

Lloyd is hoping to get a lot more photography around the benefits of irrigation to tell the story and showcase what goes on. Let him know of any photo opportunities and he will come out with a camera.

MOTION

That WLA hold future AGMs at a less busy time in August.

Moved John Lolicato

Seconded Darcy Hare

Carried

Dave May – I would like to make mention of the group Shaun Thomas has organized in Tullakool where the locals get to together to look at each other's crops. Such a great initiative.

Meeting Closed 9.27 pm