

 **Minutes/Actions:**

**Joint Alliance Meeting**

**21 May 2015 – Parkes Shire Council**

## Present

**David Waddell** – Orange City Council

**Diana Kureen** – Central Tablelands LLS

**Gretel Purser** – Wellington Council

**Warwick Doulman** – Cabonne Council

**Lynton Auld** – Dubbo City Council

**Chris McCulloch** – Central Tablelands LLS

**James Cleasby** – Warren Shire Council

**Craig Flemming** – Contamination Central

**Andrew Johns** – Lachlan Shire Council

**Catriona Jennings** – Dubbo City Council

**Cherie Hughes** – Central West LLS

**Shane Weatherall** – Warrumbungle Shire Council

**Rolly Lawford** – Gilgandra Shire Council

**Ryan Thomas** – Central West LLS

## Apologies

**Murray Wood** – Orange City Council

**Mick Callan** – S&WQA

**Kayla Volker** – Bogan Shire Council

**Deborah Taylor** – Bathurst Regional Council

**Leon Ross** – Forbes Shire Council

**Damon Cupitt** – Lithgow City Council

**Chris Schumacher** – Oberon Council

**Elizabeth Densley** – Midwestern Regional Council

Chair

David Waddell

Faciltator

Diana Kureen

# Salinity & Water Quality Alliance,

# Centroc Water Utilities Alliance,

# Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance

# Joint Meeting – morning

# Agenda Item 1 Opening

**Opening**

* The meeting was opened at 9:30am with a welcome to Parkes Shire by Andrew Francis
* Acknowledgment was made of the Traditional Owners of the Land and their Elders past and present
* Introduction of participants
* Introduction to the meeting and outline of the content was made
* WHS considerations for the meeting

### Office of Water Liveability Indicators – Reporting

* Discussion relating to the reporting of demand management and WSUD indicators and how the Office of Water having this data demonstrates the capacity of Councils to manage water & sewer preventing corporatisation. Although indicators are difficult to report on it is valuable information and important to do so. By including these indicators in the Regional State of the Environment Reporting the regular data collection may make reporting requirements simpler for the 17 councils that participate in the regional report. Water Managers to discuss indicators with other sections of their Councils.**ACTION**
* Climate Change Adaptation grants opening soon. Opportunity for a joint application to this funding program. Only Orange City Council confirmed to have a climate change risk assessment with Bathurst Regional Council confirming that their risk assessment was completed but never adopted by Council. Councils to confirm if they have these assessments and the 3 Alliances to discuss collaborative projects. **ACTION**

# Agenda Item 2 Catchment Characteristics Jane-Louise Lampard

Jane-Louise Lampard from the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities introduced the stormwater research that is seeking to identify key pollutants that can be expected from catchments with varying characteristics. This will allow for policy to separate stormwater from blackwater or greywater when considered for re-use. Testing to date, has shown evidence of contamination of stormwater with sewerage throughout all catchments.

# Agenda Item 3 Rainfall Cycles in Central NSW Bernie Resenberger

Bernie Resenberger of Bernberger Consulting presented information pertaining to the comprehensive study of rainfall cycle analysis completed for Dubbo City Council. Demonstrated modelling that indicates the most likely timeframes for very dry years and very wet years and the surrounding wet and dry cycles. This information was sought to assist Dubbo City Council to plan future budgets and expectations of water use but has the potential to be used for other purposes.

Stewart McLeod who commissioned the research thought other Councils might be interested in having similar studies for their LGA. Bernie Resenberger can be contacted at: bernie@bernbergerconsult.com.au

# Agenda Item 4 Climate Change Predications & Use Paul Ryan

Paul Ryan provided information on climate projections and the associated impacts with an outline of how the projections can be used for future planning. Resources demonstrated included:

www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au

www.adaptNRM.csiro.au

An interactive group session was included based around adaptation pathways and using them to plan future investment decisions.

**Salinity & Water Quality Alliance**

**Local Government Reference Group Meeting –**

**afternoon** 

# Agenda Item 1 Alliance Update Mick Callan/Diana Kureen

Mick Callan & Diana Kureen gave a brief update on Alliance business including:

* Distribution of Project Officer reports for both Central West LLS & Central Tablelands LLS regions
* Update on the current state of the NSW Environmental Trust Education Program grant application. EOI was submitted with notification due in June 2015. Still an opportunity for the six Councils who have not formally committed to the application to be involved. **ACTION**
* Information presented regarding the proposed Alliance application to the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration & Rehabilitation program. The proposed project has working title of Wetlands out West and would focus on improving wetland habitat for threatened and migratory bird species. Briefing documents were distributed. **ACTION**
* The group were advised that a quotation has been received for the design and build of an Alliance website and associated communications plan. Further quotation/s will be required. **ACTION**
* The Alliance prepared a submission for the Senate Inquiry into stormwater. Copies of the submission were distributed.
* An update was provided on the recent Erosion & Sediment control training that was conducted across the Alliance region.
* It was decided that a special meeting should be convened in early July – outside of the school holiday period – to review the Alliance 5 Year Plan and to discuss the potential re-naming of the Alliance. **ACTION**
* Abstracts have been submitted to the Environmental Health Australia conference as well as to the combined Water Sensitive Urban Design & Erosion Control Association National Conference. The latter has been advised as being successful and relates to works being undertaken by Parkes Shire Council to remediate failed stormwater infrastructure, utilising plants to assist with reducing stormwater velocities and erosion.

# Agenda Item 2 Central Tablelands LLS Update Diana Kureen/Greg Matthews

Diana Kureen & Greg Matthews updated the group on their respective LLS regions.

* Diana Kureen provided a presentation outlining the Central Tablelands Strategic Plan. The plan has been developed concurrently with the State LLS Strategic Plan and is currently in a draft format. The plan will be adopted by the Central Tablelands LLS Board prior to be being submitted for approval by the State LLS Board of Chairs.
* Central Tablelands LLS has identified $50k – subject to final budget approval – for on-ground works to be distributed to Councils to assist the LLS to meet internal targets within the 2015-16 financial year. The funding will be aimed at increasing areas managed for water values and will be strategically targeted. More details will be available in the new financial year. **ACTION**
* Greg Matthews advised that the Central West LLS Strategic Plan will not be adopted by the Board, due to time restrictions, prior to being submitted to the Board of Chairs. The Central West LLS Strategic Plan is also currently in draft format and it is anticipated that no further significant changes will be required.
* Central West LLS has budgeted – subject to approval - $50k for Alliance projects for the 2015/16 financial year. This is inclusive of meeting costs and capacity-building as well as on-ground works. The manner in which these funds are to be allocated is yet to be decided with a meeting between the Alliance Project Support Officer and Central West LLS staff scheduled for early June. **ACTION**
* Greg Matthews advised that the Central West LLS is also pursuing a Local Government Community Advisory Group, separate to the Salinity & Water Quality Alliance Reference Group. The primary focus of the group would be weed management and would meet on an as needs basis. There are at present still vacancies for this group.

# Agenda Item 3 Contamination Central Project Joel Little/Craig Flemming

Joel Little provided an introduction to the Contamination Central project and the Project Support Officer, Craig Flemming. Craig provided a presentation to the group regarding the project and how Alliance Councils can become involved. There is a nominal fee for Councils willing to participate, Craig will continue to contact the councils that have not already signed up, and will start auditing those that have. **ACTION**

It is anticipated that information from the Contamination Central project will be able to be posted on the Alliance website once it is operational.

# Agenda Item 4 Other Business

* Local Council Green Team – Dubbo Council staff are currently working with Gilgandra staff to implement their wetlands projects. Gilgandra will then reciprocate later, helping Dubbo with a project they wish to implement. This really is a good format for Councils to follow – it would be good to see more Alliance Councils working to implement projects collaboratively
* General discussion relating to Green Army teams across the region including their benefits and some drawbacks. The application process has changed in recent rounds with no guarantee of a local service provider overseeing the day to day operations of the team.
* Diana Kureen advised that Mid-Western Regional Council has been successful in the Regional Landcare Awards for their work in supporting and working with Landcare Groups.
* David Waddell advised that Orange City Council is currently working on a bio-banking project pertaining to offsets for the pipeline project. A presentation will be available for the next meeting regarding this project and the obligations when participating in this type of scheme. **ACTION**

### Next Meeting – Wed 26 August (TBC)

**Salinity & WQ Alliance 5 Year Plan review and forward planning meeting – Thursday 16 July (TBC)**

### The meeting closed at 3:00pm

Signed as a true and accurate record:

Diana Kureen

Diana Kureen

Snr Land Services Officer – Local Government

Central Tablelands LLS

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**Key Actions/Agreements from this meeting**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Key Action/Agreement | Responsibility | Priority | Status | Due By/Notes |
| ACTION: Water Managers to discuss with other sections of Council – planning etc – to assist with reporting | All Water Managers and other staff responsible for reporting. | High |  |  |
| ACTION: Liaise with Water Utilities Alliances re. Water Liveability Indicators included in Regional SOE Reporting | Diana Kureen | Medium |  | September 2015 |
| ACTION: Investigate opportunity for joint application to the Climate Change Adaptation program | Mick CallanMeredith Macpherson  | High |  | June 2015 |
| ACTION: Councils that have yet to formally agree to be involved in the Youth Stormwater Champions project to contact Mick Callan: 6333 2323 | Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine, Lachlan, Forbes Councils | High |  | June 2015 |
| ACTION: Identify potential wetland sites and partnerships for the proposed Wetlands out West Alliance application to the NSW Environmental Trust | Mick CallanAll | Medium |  | July 2015 |
| ACTION: Seek further quotation/s for the design & build of an Alliance website | Mick Callan | High |  | June 2015 |
| ACTION: Organise Alliance meeting to update 5 Year Plan in early July | Diana KureenMick Callan | High |  | June 2015 |
| ACTION: Finalise funding available to Councils through LLS budgets as well as determine manner in which funds are to be distributed in each region | Mick CallanDiana KureenCherie Hughes | Medium |  | July 2015 |
| ACTION: Councils wanting to elect to be involved in the Contamination Central project to contact Project Support Officer Craig Flemming: 0429 893 052 | All Councils yet to join Contamination Central project | Medium |  | July 2015 |
| ACTION: Arrange for a representative of Orange City Council to present to the group re. biobanking project | Diana KureenMick CallanDavid Waddell | Medium |  | July 2015 |

# Key Actions/Agreements from previous meeting

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| Key Action/Agreement | Responsibility | Priority | Status | Due By/Notes |
| ACTION: Office of Water and Fisheries to be asked to provide a media release of what they require for development on waterfront/riparian areas | Diana Kureen | Medium | Complete |  |
| ACTION: Draft of Alliance website to the next meeting | Mick Callan with input from All | Medium | Additional quotation to be sought. Website to be developed after July meeting | July 2015 |
| ACTION: Launch Alliance Facebook page | Mick Callan | High | Complete | March 2015 |
| ACTION: Finalise Environmental Trust EOI for Youth Stormwater Champions | Mick Callan | High | Complete | 10 April 2015 |
| ACTION: Straying stock and impoundment arrangement agreement | Cherie Hughes | Medium | ? | May 2015 |
| ACTION: A list of relevant LLS staff and the equipment held at each office to be prepared | Cherie Hughes | Medium | ? | May 2015 |
| ACTION: Identify roadside vegetation management projects to be ready if and when external funding is made available | All Councils | Medium | ? | May 2015 |