

**LOCH GARRY FUTURE SERVICE STRATEGY
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of Meeting No: 6

Date and Time: Friday 2 May 2025 9.30am – 2.00pm

Venue: Nathalia Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve

Attendees: Chloe Warburton (Facilitator, Goulburn Murray Water)
Mathew Price
Nevil Hauffe
Colin Grinter
Stuart Grinter
John Pettigrew
Lochlan Inglis
Guy Tierney (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority)
Rachel Gadd (Moirra Shire Council)
Louise Mitchell (Greater Shepparton City Council)
Luke Dunham (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Steven Abbott (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Rhiannon Bradshaw (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Geoff Coburn (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Chloe Warburton (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Darren Grossmann (Goulburn Murray Water)

Minute Taker: Nadine Francis (Goulburn Murray Water)

Apologies: Greg Shannon, Warren Blyth, Colin Gilby, Linton Ryan, McKenzie Craig, Sally McPherson, John McCartney (Campaspe Shire Council)

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting commenced at approximately 9.45am with Chloe Warburton acting as facilitator. Steven Abbott welcomed all attendees to the sixth meeting of the Community Reference Group (CRG) and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land. All attendees were thanked for their time and investment in the Future Service Strategy for Loch Garry.

2. Purpose of meeting

Chloe confirmed that the purpose of this meeting was to review the feasibility analysis of several options undertaken by GMW resulting in a preferred option and to discuss next steps. The agenda was also reviewed.

3. **Review Loch Garry Future Service Strategy journey**

Chloe recapped the timeline and engagement of the CRG from the original expression of interest released in October 2023 and the inception meeting in January 2024 through several meetings and workshops. Key meeting outcomes included identification of themes for the future of Loch Garry, shortlisted options for the flood study, review of the flood modelling. This engagement process culminated in meeting 5 in February 2025 where the CRG members voted on a preferred option.

Chloe then presented a summary of all options considered for the Loch Garry Future Service Strategy.

4. **Summary of CRG 5 Outcome**

A slide was then presented covering the outcome of CRG meeting 5 held in February 2025 which incorporated a workshop where the members voted on a preferred option for the Loch Garry Future Service Strategy.

Members were reminded of the options receiving the highest votes. Option 2A - Fairer Distribution of Water was the consensus of the CRG with Option 3 - Return to Natural Flows receiving the second highest number of votes.

5. **Review GMW Options Analysis**

Chloe presented a series of slides on the feasibility analysis undertaken by GMW for Loch Garry. The analysis was conducted on several options:

Option 1 - Base Case, no change to regulator, current operating rules

Option 1C - Base Case, regulator upgrade, clarify ownership of all levees

Option 2A - Fairer Distribution, regulator upgrade, additional flow control structures

Option 3 - Return to Natural Flows, removal of regulator and sufficient lower Goulburn levees

Option 3A – Open Regulator, modify regulator to remain open

A summary of the components included in the feasibility analysis was presented. This included, CRG assessment criteria, PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, Environment) analysis, Benefits, Risks, Capital cost, Pricing impacts, and Timeline for delivery.

Chloe then presented a slide for each of the options included in the feasibility analysis.

Each slide contained the following components:

- A description of the option
- A feasibility score derived from the feasibility matrix
- Key benefits and risks
- High-level capital cost estimate
- Estimated pricing impacts (covering several scenarios including co-funding and expansion of the revenue base)
- Estimated timeline for completion

The committee request a copy of the feasibility assessment matrix.

Action: Darren to share the feasibility matrix with CRG members

Following the presentation of the GMW options analysis there was a discussion about the resulting outputs. Questions were asked about the various options and estimated financial impacts. Clarification was also sought on the various scenarios mentioned in the pricing impacts. Darren explained to the CRG that the range of pricing impacts covered, self-funded, co-funded, existing revenue base, and an expanded revenue base (3x).

CRG members ask for a copy of the slideshow presented to them.

GMW advised that a copy can be distributed, but it should be kept confidential at this time.

Action: Darren to distribute slideshow to the CRG members

6. **GMW preferred option**

Chloe then presented a slide highlighting Option 3 – Gradual Return to Natural Flows as the preferred option from GMW. This means there will be no immediate change to the existing service.

The slide listed several points supporting this option:

- alignment with criteria
- reduces long-term costs
- restores natural flow conditions to boost ecosystem health
- improves climate resilience
- aligns to government flood plain management policy.

Further discussion was then held on this preferred option. One CRG member noted it that this was not an unexpected outcome. It was also noted that the members agreed unanimously that option 2A was the preferred option.

Discussion was also held on the gradual return to natural flows and how this would take place and to what extent the lower Goulburn levees would need to be removed.

7. **Next Steps:**

Chloe presented the next steps proposed for the Loch Garry future Service Strategy.

These steps include:

- Undertake broad community and stakeholder engagement
- Engage with the Loch Garry Customer Committee (when formed)
- Report back on the engagement outcomes
- Update and finalise recommended option
- Confirm and approve the Loch Garry Future Service Strategy
- Commence implementation of the strategy

It is noted that regardless of the preferred option at this time, GMW will provide information on other options to ensure stakeholders, landholders, government, and community are sufficiently informed and engaged.

It is expected that community engagement will run for 4-6 weeks and will likely commence at the end of June in response to member current operational commitments.

It is noted that the CRG Terms of Reference exists until the end of June.

8. **Closing and thank you.**

Darren and Steve thanked the committee and acknowledged the engagement and input into these meetings. They further acknowledge the importance of the CRG.

A Loch Garry Customer Committee will be formed in the 2nd half of the year. An expression of interest process will be released at the appropriate time.

GMW invited CRG members to be involved in the broader community engagement sessions.

Exercise: Feedback on the CRG Process

All committee members were invited to provide feedback on what worked well and what were some of the challenges of the CRG engagement process.

Close:

The meeting was closed at 1.25pm

Meeting Action List

Meeting Number	Item Number	Content and Description	Action Outcome	Responsible	Due Date	Status
6	5	CRG members request a copy of the feasibility matrix	Darren to share the feasibility document with CRG members	Darren Grossmann		In progress
6	5	CRG members request a copy of the presented slideshow	Darren to distribute slideshow to the CRG members	Darren Grossmann		In Progress