

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

Minutes of Meeting No: 3

Date and Time: Wednesday 5 June 2024

Venue: Nathalia Sports and Community Centre
42 Robertson Street
NATHALIA VIC 3638

Attendees:

1. Claire Flanagan-Smith (RMCG) Independent Facilitator
2. Daryl Poole (RMCG)
3. George Warne (RMCG)
4. Mathew Price
5. Nevil Hauffe
6. Colin Grinter
7. Stuart Grinter
8. John Pettigrew
9. Linton Ryan
10. Mackenzie Craig
11. Sally McPherson
12. Colin Gilby
13. Louise Mitchell (Greater Shepparton City Council)
14. John McCartney (Campaspe Shire Council)
15. Emad Laghaei (Moirra Shire Council)
16. Warren Blyth (Goulburn-Murray Water)
17. Greg Shannon (Goulburn-Murray Water)
18. Brendan Brooks (Goulburn-Murray Water)
19. Luke Dunham (Goulburn-Murray Water)
20. Steven Abbott (Goulburn-Murray Water)
21. Rhiannon Bradshaw (Goulburn-Murray Water)
22. Kevin Brennan (Goulburn-Murray Water)
23. Darren Grossmann (Goulburn-Murray Water)
24. Heather Boyd (Goulburn-Murray Water)
25. Geoff Coburn (Goulburn-Murray Water)
26. Chloe Warburton (Goulburn-Murray Water)

Minute Taker: Amy Tonkin (Goulburn-Murray Water)

Apologies: Guy Tierney (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management
Authority)
Justin Hanrahan (Moirra Shire Council)

1. **Welcome – Claire Flanagan-Smith & Steven Abbott**

The meeting commenced at approximately 9:33am.

Claire Flanagan-Smith opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the third meeting of the Community Reference Group (**CRG**).

Steven Abbott also welcomed and thanked all attendees for their time and investment in the Future Service Strategy for Loch Garry.

Steven Abbott outlined that the purpose of the CRG is to:

- explore, refine and shortlist potential options
- select preferred options to recommend to GMW.

2. **Introductions – Clare Flanagan-Smith**

Claire Flanagan-Smith introduced herself to the CRG as the independent facilitator.

Claire Flanagan-Smith then asked all attendees to introduce themselves as there were some attendees present for the first time.

3. **Purpose and Reminder of Meeting Ground Rules – Claire Flanagan-Smith**

Claire Flanagan-Smith reiterated the purpose of the CRG and advised the group of the agenda for the day.

It was expected that by the end of the day the CRG will have:

- selected up to five options to assess
- established the selection criteria for assessment of options
- shortlist and prioritise all options

Previous actions arising and the conflict of interest register were reviewed. No additions were noted.

Claire Flanagan-Smith reiterated the principles of conduct from the Terms of Reference.

Additionally, Claire encouraged innovative thinking, acknowledged that some discussions may be difficult, and reminded attendees about confidentiality.

4. **Summary of CRG Meeting 2 - Daryl Poole**

Daryl Poole provided a summary of the second CRG meeting held on 23 April 2024.

Daryl mentioned that some common themes from the day included:

- the Loch Garry Regulator
- southern water release
- upstream water release
- downstream river levees
- Shepparton gauge
- Broken Creek

- flood modelling
- area subject to paying a levy (beneficiaries)
- environmental flows
- dam safety and operating rules.

Daryl Poole noted that these themes are the starting point for option development.

Daryl advised that there were flood model maps on display at the back of the room, for information and reference. These maps showed three flood event scenarios with and without the Loch Garry regulator and levees.

5. **Assessment Criteria – Claire Flanagan-Smith**

Claire Flanagan-Smith advised that RMCG had developed potential criteria for shortlisting options based on feedback from the CRG, the CRG survey results, and comments received during the community open day in April.

The potential criteria included:

- **Acceptance** by the broader community.
- **Scope** relative to Loch Garry.
- **Safety** for GMW staff and the community.
- **Practicality** can the option be implemented.
- **Financial** up-front and ongoing costs
- **Environmental Impacts** long term environmental benefits.
- **Flood Mitigation** reducing impact and duration.
- Shared burdens and benefits.

The intention is for the CRG to confirm the criteria against which they will assess options and provide advice to GMW. It was noted that GMW may have their own version of criteria for assessment.

There were discussions seeking clarification and explanations in relation to the proposed criteria. It was acknowledged that some criteria overlap.

Following CRG discussion, the criteria for short listing options was agreed:

- **Scope:**
 - to what extent is it within the direct control of GMW.
 - If not within direct control of GMW, note that options will require advocacy and collaboration with external parties.
- **Go/No Go:**
 - **Operator Safety:** how safe is the option for operators?
 - **Flood Mitigation:** does it work better i.e. will the option reduce the impact and duration of floods?
- **Criteria:**
 - **Equity:** to what extent does the option share burdens and benefits more fairly?
 - **Community Safety:** what is the impact on the safety of the wider community?
 - **Practicality:** can the option be implemented?
 - **Legality:** to what extent will the option have legal implications?
 - **Financial:** what is the likely cost of the option?

- **Acceptance:** will the option be accepted by the broader community?
- **Environmental Impacts:** to what extent will the option impact the natural environment (positive and negative)?

Claire Flanagan-Smith requested all CRG members to make a list of three or four criteria in order of importance which were then discussed as a group.

The common responses were:

- Safety
- Equity
- Practicality
- Financial
- Acceptance
- Flood Mitigation.

The meeting paused for the morning tea break.

6. **Options Discussion – First Round - Claire Flanagan-Smith**

The CRG split up into three groups (each with an RMCG and council representative) to identify and develop potential options.

Responses from the three groups closely aligned with the common themes developed in CRG Meeting 2 (noted in Section 4).

It was noted that the levees were a consistent topic across the three groups, and several CRG members noted that the entire levee system should be considered holistically, not just the GMW-managed levees.

7. **Options Discussion – Second Round – Claire Flanagan-Smith**

Members of the three groups were shuffled into three new groups. The new groups undertook a review of the responses from the previous session, with the goal to have a proposed set of clear options to be examined further.

RMCG will consolidate the options over the lunch break for the afternoon session.

The meeting paused for the lunch break.

8. **Assessment of Options Against Selection Criteria – Claire Flanagan-Smith**

Claire Flanagan-Smith advised the CRG that the purpose of this session was to develop a set of options for consideration by GMW.

When discussing the fixed crest option, the CRG members are referring to possible design options that provide equal or greater benefits than the current regulator, in relation to the Shepparton gauge trigger of 10.36m.

It was also noted that the October 2022 event was a major flood event which resulted in uncontrolled levee breaches.

From the discussions prior to lunch, RMCG developed a comprehensive set of seven options.

Warren Blyth left the meeting at 3:06pm. He acknowledged and thanked the CRG for their contribution.

The CRG assessed each option against the agreed assessment criteria.

The meeting paused for the afternoon tea break.

9. Shortlisting of Options – Claire Flanagan-Smith

The seven options were presented and each CRG member was given five votes to put towards options they would like to be studied. The aim of the exercise was to clearly show the group's preferred options.

There were five options which received the most votes, noting that not all options may prove to be viable. These will be considered for inclusion in initial flood modelling and feasibility studies by GMW.

10. Next Steps – Claire Flanagan-Smith & Steven Abbott

Claire Flanagan-Smith advised that RMCG will prepare a report that captures the journey so far and make recommendations on what options should be studied. The scope from modelling will be formed from the report. There will be further discussions between RMCG and GMW.

Steven Abbott informed the CRG that GMW will consider the report and the flood modelling will be undertaken by Water Technology and GBCMA. Modelling will be provided to the CRG. It was requested that there be an online meeting (approx. 30 minutes) when this information is distributed.

Steven Abbott advised that GMW will undertake analysis of the options. GMW will also undertake further community engagement (both North and South of the river) and proposed that the CRG reconvene in late August/early September. He is optimistic CRG are on track to have a preferred option by the end of the year and a roadmap on how to realise the preferred option.

Steven Abbott acknowledged that there has been significant progress made. Steven Abbott thanked all CRG members.

The meeting concluded at 3:50pm.

Meeting Action List

Meeting Number	Item Number	Content and Description	Action Outcome	Responsible	Due Date	Status
1	3	Detailed Terms of Reference for the proposed Flood Study to be provided at next meeting		Guy Tierney (GBCMA)		in progress
1	3	Campaspe Shire Council be invited to join CRG	Invited and represented	RMCG		completed
1	3	List of Recommendations from Loch Garry Reference Committee be included in papers		Rhiannon Bradshaw (GMW)		completed
1	4	Amended paragraph 2 in relation to Confidentiality to add the word "confidential" be added between the words "all" and "documents".	Amended	Rhiannon Bradshaw (GMW)		completed
1	4	Conflict of Interest Register	Register distributed to CRG members 10/5/24	Rhiannon Bradshaw (GMW)		completed
1	5	Modelling to be provided to assist with informing CRG	See below links provided	Guy Tierney (GBCMA)		completed

Rural Levee Assessment link from the GBCMA publication page:

[Rural Levee Assessment Report.pdf \(gbcma.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/floodplain#Lower%20Goulburn%20Floodplain%20Rehabilitation%20Scheme)

Also, a further 11 reference documents can be found under Lower Goulburn tab:

https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/floodplain#Lower%20Goulburn%20Floodplain%20Rehabilitation%20Scheme

3	8	Future consideration required for flood mitigation upstream of Shepparton		Guy Tierney (GBCMA)		