

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

Minutes of Meeting No: 4

Date and Time: Thursday 7 November 2024 – 10:00am

Venue: Numurkah Town Hall
Knox Street
NUMURKAH VIC 3636

Attendees:

1. Daryl Poole (RMCG) Independent Facilitator
2. Mathew Price
3. Nevil Hauffe
4. Colin Grinter
5. Stuart Grinter
6. John Pettigrew
7. Linton Ryan
8. Mackenzie Craig
9. Louise Mitchell (Greater Shepparton City Council)
10. Rachel Gadd (Moirá Shire Council)
11. Guy Tierney (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority)
12. Lachlan Inglis (Water Technology)
13. Warren Blyth (Goulburn-Murray Water)
14. Luke Dunham (Goulburn-Murray Water)
15. Steven Abbott (Goulburn-Murray Water)
16. Rhiannon Bradshaw (Goulburn-Murray Water)
17. Geoff Coburn (Goulburn-Murray Water)
18. Darren Grossmann (Goulburn-Murray Water)
19. Heather Boyd (Goulburn-Murray Water)
20. Chloe Warburton (Goulburn-Murray Water)

Minute Taker: Amy Tonkin (Goulburn-Murray Water)

Apologies:

Claire Flanagan-Smith (RMCG)
Sally McPherson
Colin Gilby
John McCartney (Campaspe Shire Council)
Greg Shannon (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Brendan Brooks (Goulburn-Murray Water)
Kevin Brennan (Goulburn-Murray Water)

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting commenced at approximately 10:00am.

Claire Flanagan-Smith was an apology with Daryl Poole acting as the Independent Facilitator. Daryl opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Steven Abbott welcomed all attendees to the fourth meeting of the Community Reference Group and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and the contributions of all Community Reference Group members to date.

2. **Introduction and Meeting Purpose**

All attendees introduced themselves for the benefit of first-time attendees.

Daryl confirmed the purpose of this meeting was to review the flood modelling outputs from Water Technology.

Daryl reiterated the Rules of Engagement and disclosed that he was a landowner in Echuca Village. There were no other conflicts of interest raised.

3. **Flood Modelling Outputs Review**

Daryl introduced Lachlan Inglis of Water Technology to the Community Reference Group.

Lachlan indicated that his presentation contained a lot of detail and asked all members to consider this from the viewpoint of the viability of each of the options.

Lachlan advised that the flood model presentation covered calibration (levee breaches in October 2022 and October 1993) and several of the shortlisted options. Some of the options were not modelled as they did not demonstrate significant change or benefit, or they were determined not to be hydrologically feasible.

He stated that the information in the flood modelling was developed using topography (LiDAR) verified to field survey, levee banks, levee breaches and the Loch Garry Regulator.

Lachlan presented data comparing the modelled flood levels to the gauge levels at Loch Garry and McCoys Bridge to demonstrate improvements made following sixteen iterations of the calibration process.

Steven reminded the members that the focus is on comparing the options, acknowledging there is a natural tendency to zoom in on the flood maps.

There was discussion about the levee breaches included in the major flood events. Whilst the preference is for there to be no breaches, Lachlan advised that the modelling assumes that there will be breaches. Water Technology could run the modelling with no breaches to establish a comparison - **Action**.

The design modelling included five separate events with varying magnitudes. These incorporate flood level data at Goulburn River at Shepparton from 1974 to 2024.

A key consideration is the capacity of the overall flood plain system and the limited ability to move water out of the system due to the relatively flat landscape and topography.

The meeting paused for the morning tea break at approximately 11.19am.

The meeting re-commenced following the morning tea break at approximately 11:33am.

4. **Flood Modelling Outputs Review**

Lachlan provided a demonstration of the flood model and an explanation of flood depths on the map.

Lachlan explained that most options were modelled, however certain options were not modelled on the basis that they were the same as the existing conditions.

He presented the modelling for:

- Option 1 – existing conditions (including calibration of October 2022 and October 1993)
- Option 2A - fairer distribution of water downstream north and south
- Option 2B – fairer distribution of water floodway north and south of the river
- Option 3 – decommission Loch Garry and all levees (natural conditions)
- Option 3A – Loch Garry Regulator Open
- Option 3B – Loch Garry Regulator Closed.

Option 2C – fairer distribution of water including upstream of Shepparton was deemed unfeasible and therefore not modelled.

The members were interested in further detailed modelling being undertaken including a potential time lapse animation to show water depth and duration. There was also a request to update some of the slides showing a combination of depths and changes in flood impacts. These will be reviewed by Water Technology - **Action**.

5. **Summary of Meeting and Actions**

Daryl acknowledged that the presentation contained a lot of information, and the members provided clear messages and viewpoints. He encouraged members to continue to provide feedback.

There is further work to be done regarding the modelling and Water Technology will respond to the feedback.

6. **Next Steps & Close**

Steven confirmed that GMW has a genuine commitment to the Community Reference Group and will not rush the decision to reach a preferred option. The meeting provided helpful feedback and GMW will consider the modelling before moving forward.

Proposed next steps include:

- completing additional analysis in relation to Lower Goulburn levees, engineering, financial, ecological and economic. This is scheduled to be completed by February 2025.
- Community Reference Group Meeting 5 proposed for February 2025 to further consider the flood modelling and additional analysis data prior to broader community engagement.
- a final meeting in a workshop format be held to finalise a recommendation to Goulburn-Murray Water.

Steven thanked all attendees for making the time to attend and providing helpful feedback.

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:15pm.

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)		completed
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		Rhiannon Bradshaw (GMW)		completed
1	5	Modelling to be provided to assist with informing CRG	See below links provided	Guy Tierney (GBCMA)		completed
4	3	Rund the major flood events without levee breaches for comparison		Lachlan Inglis (Water Technology)		
4	4	Review possibility of producing timelapse showing depth and duration		Lachlan Inglis (Water Technology)		
4	4	Update slides showing depths and changes for clarity		Lachlan Inglis (Water Technology)		

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