



**EYRE PENINSULA COUNCILS  
COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT (CWMS)  
USER GROUP**

**MINUTES – MEETING 5**

DATE: WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015

VENUE: FRANKLIN HARBOUR COUNCIL, COWELL

<p>Attending:</p>	<p>Damian Windsor (Tumby Bay) Penny Williams (Streaky Bay) Ivan Noble, Fiona Ward (Cleve) Michael Inglis, Michael Kemp, Daryl Cearns (Kimba) Gary Jutzen, Alex Douglas (Lower Eyre) Neil Haynes, Kelsie Trezise (Wudinna) Bernadette Clelland, Kevin Baldock, Jack Kelley (Franklin Harbour) Richard Gayler, (Gayler Engineering) Mike Stephenson (Rashlee Pty Ltd) Niki Robinson, Brent Slee (OTR) Stuart Peevor and Nathan Petrus (ESCOSA)</p>
<p>Apologies</p>	<p>Darren Zechner (Franklin Harbour) Grant Drummond (Ceduna)</p>
<p>Achievements to date and future direction</p>	<p>The EP CWMS Group was formed in July 2014 and has addressed a number of issues in a short timeframe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Chart of Accounts for implementation 2015/16</li> <li>• Common Maintenance Logbooks and reporting</li> <li>• Establish Incident and complaints database</li> <li>• Consider funding, long term financial improvements, etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> The general consensus of those present was that the Group should continue its role for the forthcoming financial year and that CEOs should be advised to response to Tony Irvine’s email in the affirmative.</p>
<p>Department of Health presentations</p>	<p>Tony Farror attended the previous meeting and outlined changes to the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling and the impact of free chlorine measurement on future operating costs.</p> <p>A series of presentations were made by the Wastewater Management Section and copies were circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The presentation by Josh Hopkins labelled Trade Waste and Stormwater raised some discussion regarding powers of entry for inspecting intrusions or defects. The Water Industry Act 2012 has significant powers for Water Industry Officers. Each Council, as the Water Entity, will appoint Water Industry Officers and they can use the following sections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 62 Powers to enter land</li> <li>• Section 56 describes Prohibited Discharges, including stormwater, untreated greases, fats and many more. \$25,000 penalty</li> </ul>

<p>Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCoSA)</p>	<p>Stuart and Nathan provided a summary of a presentation outlining the role and function of ESCoSA focusing on Minor and Intermediate Retailers in the Water Industry, focusing on the Price Regulation function of ESCoSA as it relates to local councils.</p> <p>Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of full cost recovery</li> <li>• Being able to demonstrate Councils are moving towards national pricing principles</li> <li>• Are Councils meeting their costs adequately? Are customers paying a fair and transparent cost for their service?</li> <li>• Obligations for Councils to have a price schedule that it made public. Modification of fees and charges table on websites?</li> <li>• Compliance with the Water Retail Code – this appears to duplicate existing requirements under the LG Act. Many of the requirements expected of the Essential Services Act, (asset management plans, hardship policy) appear to be duplicated and this needs further discussion.</li> <li>• Ring fencing of the CWMS Financials – are they separately accounted for?</li> <li>• Do you have a specific CWMS Asset Management Plan and is the basis for arriving at those values defensible?</li> <li>• If your full cost recovery needs to see an increase in fees, do you have a plan to achieve those charges over a reasonable time?</li> <li>• Are you planning to move away from Cross Subsidies and if they exist, are they transparently documented?</li> </ul> <p>A working group of the relevant agencies (ESCoSA, OTR, DHA, EPA) has been established and is considering overlaps and opportunities to improve processes. Planning for the practicalities of a single annual reporting format to suit the variety of regulators is in progress.</p> <p>The group reinforced that consultation with Local Government needs to include the smaller entities with simple schemes and few administrative personnel rather than relying on the input of larger entities with significant resources and expertise that are not available or justified in regional areas.</p> <p>The speakers provided feedback on the submissions received during the first reporting period of 2014. Generally the quality of submissions was considered excellent. All Councils will receive a letter specifically detailing how well their response was received and what the expectations will be for future submissions. Those Councils flagged as needing more information will be contacted individually to determine what assistance they might need to improve their returns.</p>
<p>Office of the Tehnical Regulator.</p>	<p>Niki Robinson, Manager – Water &amp; Sewerage Infrastructure Regulation, outlined the role and function of the OTR in the CWMS Sector. Brent Slee, Regional Plumbing Installation Inspector, was available to field any specific onsite plumbing questions.</p> <p>The Office of the Technical Regulator operates under the Water Industry Act to administer the technical standards that apply to the industry. There is a requirement for Water Entities to develop a Safety Reliability Maintenance and Technical Management Plan. A template SRMTMP has been circulated by email to all Water Entities.</p>

	<p>A SRMTMP needs to demonstrate how you operate your schemes, who is responsible, how do you maintain your systems and keep records of incidents, complaint, etc.</p> <p>The template O&amp;M Manual developed by the South East CWMS Group and duplicated with the Eyre Peninsula Group addresses a number of the expectations of the SRMTMP and it was agreed that with some work, that version may present an acceptable alternate format.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Mike Stephenson to work with Damian Windsor in generating a draft SRMTMP for Tumby Bay to be presented to the OTR for review. The revised document could then be used by others who have implemented the O&amp;M template already by making the necessary modifications rather than developing a new SRMTMP from scratch.</p>
Water Treatment Training	TAFE have commenced providing training for Certificate III in Water Operations at Wudinna. So far 3 days being completed and feedback has been positive from those who attended.
Water Industry Operators Association	<p>Tony Irvine (CEO EPLGA) has referred on an email from the Water Industry Operators Association setting out the objectives of the group and their aims to expand the networking opportunities for hands on water operators in SA.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Mike to approach and meet Neil Crossing to discuss the benefits of joining their organisation and report to the next meeting.</p>
Algae Control in lagoons	<p>Grant Drummond reports having had good results with controlling algae on storage lagoons using an ultrasonic device. Documentation attached with the minutes.</p> <p>Niki added that she had done some research work on ultrasonic controls previously and commented on the limitations of range and depths and the need for overlap of multiple devices dependent on lagoon configuration.</p>
Site Visit	The group had the opportunity to observe the operation of the Vermeer Rock Saw being used in the construction of the Cowell CWMS Project currently underway.
Next meeting	Date to be determined in late May/ early June to coincide with the proposed OTR meeting at Wudinna. Suggest that an invitation be extended to ESCoSA's Head of Licensing and Compliance.

Questions, omissions or additions please contact Mike direct by phone or email as below:

**Michael Stephenson**  
B.App.Sc (Env Hlth), MAIEH, MMCAA



Project Management • Quality Assurance • Environmental Support

PO Box 2014, Berri  
 South Australia 5343

**Phone. 0417 876 846**  
 Email. [mike@rashlee.com.au](mailto:mike@rashlee.com.au)