

River Monitoring

Terms of Reference

Revised Draft TERMS OF REFERENCE
(Version 4 - 12/02/08) - no appendices included

Aims

A **River Monitoring Committee** (RMC) has been established to oversee and have input to the development and implementation of a River Monitoring Program for affected rivers including the Nymboida, Orara, and Blaxland rivers and Shannon Creek. The program is as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry for the Regional Water Supply Project and as required by the Project determination conditions of North Coast Water (Lower Clarence County Council) approved on 22/3/2000 and water licences issued for the Shannon Creek storage and the NorthPower extraction from the Nymboida River.

The Committee will also have input to the development of a Riverine Management Strategy including recommended response mechanisms based on feedback from the monitoring program and recommendations to DIPNR (*now Dept of Planning & Dept of Natural Resources*) in relation to changes to bulk water access by NorthPower (Now Country Energy), NCW and CHCC, and refinements to extraction regimes by these authorities.

Terms of Reference

The RMC is the primary reference and review group in relation to activities related to development and implementation of a river monitoring program. This Program is to examine the potential effects on river health of the extractions and operations of NorthPower (Now Country Energy), NCW and CHCC on the Nymboida and Orara Rivers, and Blaxland and Shannon Creeks.

The functions of the River Monitoring Committee as assisted by its technical advisers and project manager are to:

- Review, suggest modifications and eventually endorse the agreed strategic processes and activities for development and implementation of the Monitoring Program and the Riverine Management Strategy.
- Direct the River Monitoring Working Group as to the activities it requires the group to carry out to meet the aims of the Committee
- Review reports and other documentation submitted to it by the Working Group Chairman and project manager and prepared in response to directions by the Committee.
- Make recommendations to NorthPower (Now Country Energy), NCW, CHCC, DLWC(Now DIPNR (*now Dept of Planning & Dept of Natural Resources*)) and any other relevant authorities in relation to the development and implementation of the River Monitoring Program and Riverine Management Strategy.

Role of the River Monitoring Committee

The Committee will function as the steering group for development and implementation of the Monitoring Program and the Riverine Management Strategy. The group will provide input on the broader community and strategic issues related to this.

The specific activities of the RMC shall generally include:

- Review of studies and reports prepared on behalf of the Working Group
- Consideration of advice from the project manager on the preferred process for achieving the committee's aims

- Consideration of advice from the Technical Adviser on matters related to scientific reports or information from the Working Group or its agents, or other factors related to achieving the aims of the Committee
- Input on community and other strategic perspectives necessary to achieve the objectives of the Committee or as sought by the Working Group to achieve that groups aims
- Preparation of recommendations to the various key authorities on matters related to the River Monitoring Program or the Riverine Management Strategy

General Approach

- The Committee will be supported by a Working Group, which will be responsible for carrying out activities as directed by the Committee and presenting the outcomes back to the Committee.
The general approach to carrying out the role of the RMC will be as follows:
- Receive reports and other information from the Working Group for review and consideration
- Provide input as individual members and representatives of particular stakeholder groups and authorities
- Identify and seek information and input on issues that require a broader community view
- Meet to discuss the outcomes of the individual reviews, discuss and consider the issues raised in the process for development and implementation of the Monitoring Program and the Riverine Management Strategy.
- Make recommendations to key stakeholders in relation to these matters and/or direct the Working Group to carry out certain activities related to achieving the aims of the Committee.
- Progressively endorse the strategic direction and findings of the development and implementation process
- Progressively seek formal endorsement from the key government and semi-government authorities as to whether the program meets the requirements of those authorities

Committee Membership

The Committee consists of a range of stakeholder interests including representatives from the community, environmental groups, recreational fishing, canoeing, rural industries, local government, NorthPower (Now Country Energy) and key state government agencies such as DLWC (Now DIPNR (*now Dept of Planning & Dept of Natural Resources*)) , EPA and Fisheries(Now DEC(*now DECC*)) as well as the Upper North Coast water Management Committee.

Jim Fear, from North Coast Water, which also provides administrative support, chairs the Committee. The Chairman is responsible for chairing all meetings including notification of members of the proposed dates for meetings (2 weeks notice to be provided) and the distribution of the agenda at least a week before the meeting.

Angela Arthington provided the technical and scientific advice in the initial development of the program.

The Strategic Project Manager for the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour Regional Water Supply Strategy, Mr ~~Gary Kennedy~~ *Vincent Joseph* from Dept. of Commerce, is the project manager for the Committee.

The Panel will be chaired by the Project Manager who will be responsible for:

- Management of the TAP process including input on the nature of the Regional Water Supply Strategy and previous studies carried out

- Engaging individual members of the TAP. (Note: In October 2001 Technical Advisory Panel members were engaged: Assoc. Prof. Andrew Boltan- TAP Chairperson, Dr Barbara Downes, Dr Ivor Growns, Dr Jane Roberts and Assoc. Prof. Richard Norris.)
- distribution of information within the Advisory Group
- communication with the River Monitoring Working Group
- arrangements for tasking individual members of the Panel plus arranging meetings including issue of the agenda
- Implementing the agreed action plans from the Advisory Panel

RMC Meetings

Minutes of the Committee meetings will be recorded and an Action Sheet will be agreed at the end of each meeting and both will be circulated to members.