

Memorandum

To: IDMOU Steering Committee

Company: IDMOU Steering Committee

From Peter Alexander

Date: 10 June 2005

**Re: IDMOU Proposed Progress Report
(IDMOU Action Item 2005/4-3)**

Attached is the updated progress report as agreed at the IDMOU steering Committee meeting on the 27 May 2005.

It is assumed that the content of this brief report will be used by you to brief senior management on the success of the process.

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Memorandum of Understanding for Irrigation Drainage Management and Water Quality Progress Report for year 1 – 2004/2005

1.0 Introduction

The Memorandum of Understanding for Irrigation Drainage Management and Water Quality (IDMOU) was signed on 22 June 2004. This agreement details the irrigation drainage related roles and responsibilities of the signatory agencies (DSE, EPA, G-MW, NCCMA and GBCMA) within the North Central and Goulburn–Broken CMA regions.

The 2004/5 financial year represents the first year of its implementation which has been a significant success in providing an open and cooperative forum for discussion.

This short paper summarises the achievements of the IDMOU over the 2004/5 period (22 June 2004 to June 30 2005).

2.0 Overall

Since the IDMOU was signed there has been an improved level of coordination, understanding and cooperation between the signatory agencies. This increased level of interaction and cooperation can be attributed to the IDMOU imparting a greater level of obligation and understanding as well as a shared common desire to achieve the underlying outcomes to be achieved by the IDMOU.

3.0 Key Milestones Achieved

Greater Cooperation on Planning Issues

A major achievement fostered by the IDMOU is a greater level of cooperation when Municipal Planning issues arise as part of seeking approval to construct new surface water management systems. Over the past 12 months extensive discussions have been held concerning the Stanhope Drain, Stage 10 of the Mosquito Depression Drain and MV Drain 11. Despite a slow start approvals for the construction of the all three drains has progressed well largely as a result of agency cooperation and undertaking based on the requirements of the IDMOU. All three drains have gone through the Municipal Planning process in the last 12 months.

Setting of Water Quality Targets

A major requirement of the IDMOU was to develop a process to enable water quality related targets to be set within receiving waterways and within irrigation drainage systems at their outfall point. This includes processes for setting monitoring requirements, and setting targets for the implementation of management actions within catchments.

Significant progress has been made with respect to these requirements, and a Decision Support System, based upon the use of Ecological Risk Assessment principles, has been developed to facilitate target setting. This system has also been trialed to ensure that it is implementable and produces the desired outputs. This system will be utilised in 2005/6 to set irrigation drainage related water quality and management action targets within the North–Central and Goulburn–Broken Catchment Management Authority regions.

Setting of Management Action Targets

The development of a process to set targets for the implementation of management actions within catchments to support the achievement of water quality outcomes is well advanced.

Both the management action and resource condition target setting systems will facilitate the setting of Aspirational (i.e. 50 year), and shorter term (i.e. 5 year and 20–30 year) targets, and align with existing CMA data capture and planning processes.

Emergency Response Procedures

Copies of the emergency response procedures used by each of the Parties to the IDMOU has been included on a CD–Rom and distributed to each of the organisations. This action has improved understanding and transparency between the signatory organisations.

4.0 Committee meetings held

Six IDMOU Steering Committee meetings were held during the 2004/5 financial year. A high level of commitment was shown by each agency with only one agency missing one meeting during the 12 month period.

These committee meetings have successfully provided a forum for senior agency staff to reach agreement on irrigation drainage related issues including Municipal Planning conditions.

5.0 Delivery Against IDMOU Requirements

In the original IDMOU, a set of implementation targets was documented. Items deliverable in the 2004/5 financial year have been listed in **Table 1**, along with a summary of their implementation progress.

6.0 Key Challenges for 2005/2006

The key challenges over the next 12 month period are to:

- Set monitoring requirements using the decision process developed
- Commence the setting of irrigation drainage related water quality targets for receiving waterways and irrigation drains using the decision process developed
- Commence the setting of management action targets using the decision process developed
- Develop general Asset and Catchment Operation plans for the North Central and Goulburn–Broken CMA regions, and detailed plans for the Stanhope Drain.

7.0 Conclusion

The IDMOU has been successful in providing a forum for senior agency representatives to more efficiently and effectively reach agreement on irrigation drainage related issues.

The implementation of the IDMOU has been progressing smoothly and facilitates a forum with the cooperation of all the signatory agencies.

Significant milestones have been achieved in the first year of implementation, including the development of an agreed process to set irrigation drainage and water quality and management action targets.

A number of significant challenges face the participating agencies in the 2005/6 period, including the development of irrigation drainage related water quality and management action targets.

Table 1: Progress Against Original Work Program in IDMOU

IDMOU Implementation Action	Timing		Agency	Other Parties Involved	Progress
	Original	Current			
General Issues					
1 Management, review and ensuring delivery of actions required under this Memorandum	Ongoing	Ongoing	DSE	ALL	Six IDMOU Steering Committee Meetings were held
2 Development of detailed guidelines for reviews and reporting processes based on DSE principles	Dec 2004	June 2005	CMA, EPA	G-MW	Drafts completed. Progress delayed due to the need to blend the IDMOU process with the new CMA reporting
3 Develop and advise each Party of the detail of existing water quality incident reporting and management procedures and systems for SWMS Receiving Waterways	Aug 2004	-	ALL	ALL	Completed
5 Document assumed cause and effect relationships between Resource Condition outcomes and Management Actions	Oct 2004	June 2005	CMA	G-MW	In progress but delayed due to the difficulties in finding or developing these complex relationships
Short Term Interim Processes					
6a Development of initial rapid decision support system for setting monitoring requirement guidelines (stations, parameters, type and analysis)	Jan 2005	-	DSE	EPA/G-MW/ CMA	Complete
6b Setting of monitoring requirements using initial rapid decision support system	May 2005	Over 2005/6/7	CMA	EPA/G-MW/ DSE	Delayed (planned). Progress was delayed because the Technical Reference Group and Steering Committee believe was important to first trial the technique(in progress)
7a Development of initial rapid appraisal risk based system for Resource Condition KPI target setting guidelines	Mar 2005	-	DSE	EPA/G-M/ CMA	Complete
14 Developing Surface Water Management System Catchment Operation Plan for whole of CMA region scale as specified in Clause 10.3.1. (3)	Jan 2005	April 2006	CMA	*G-MW	Re-scheduled because the improved efficiencies resulting from first developing the Catchment Operation Plan for the Stanhope Drain.
15 Developing Surface Water Management System Catchment Operation Plans for Planning Catchments to achieve target coverage as specified in Clause 10.3.1. (4)	2005-2009	2005-2009	CMA	*G-MW	Ongoing
16 Developing Surface Water Management System Asset Operation Plan for whole of CMA region scale as specified in Clause 10.3.2. (4)	June 2005	April 2006	CMA & G-MW	-	Re-scheduled because the improved efficiencies resulting from first developing the Asset Operation Plan for the Stanhope Drain.

* Note: In consultation with Department of Primary Industries