



Steering Committee South West Water Catchment Management (Waroona to Harvey)

Overall Role

To oversee the community engagement process to ensure it is fair, transparent and accountable; and maximises opportunities for inclusion, deliberation and influence.

Goal

To forge a strategic partnership between Steering Team participants, working together as equals to reach consensus (willing to live with) an agreement about the community engagement process.

Membership

Number: 8 – 12 representatives.

Representing: Inclusive rather than exclusive representation of:

- Relevant government agencies (federal/state/local).
- Industry/commerce.
- Community - representing the different viewpoints on the engagement issue (including those without specific interests).

Chair: The sponsoring agency or politician/representative with end line responsibility over.

Support: Executive support to write agreements and actions arising from meetings.

Specific Tasks

1. Contributing to and signing off on the community engagement design as the most appropriate, feasible way to engage the community in this instance, including:
 - the inclusiveness/representativeness of the prospective participants
 - the dialogue techniques, ensuring they encourage open and informative deliberation, and where appropriate, a search for common ground; and
 - the process for ensuring the participant outcomes have influence.
2. Determining the varying viewpoints to be presented via papers (who will write them) and presenters at the event (who will present).
3. Overseeing the content of the information distributed to ensure it is fair and balanced.
4. Overseeing any surveys to ensure the design and distribution is appropriate to achieving the goals set, inclusive of all viewpoints, practical and fair.
5. Overseeing any advertising and potential PR to ensure it is even-handed.
6. Agreeing on the participant representation at the event, eg including determining:
 - the stakeholder groups to be invited and the numbers of representatives from each;
 - the regional area from which participants will be elicited;
 - the advertising process to elicit broad and inclusive participation;
 - the stratification of the random sample if required; and
 - the selection process if needed, if there are too many nominations.
7. Contributing to the engagement event as agreed by the group (eg as 'experts', observers, table facilitators or scribes, participants).
8. Overseeing the outcomes of the process and feedback to participants.

**South West (Waroona to Harvey) Water Catchment Management
Community Engagement Process**

Project overview

The Department of Water is currently assessing a proposal by Harvey Water and Water Corporation to trade water at Logue Brook dam. This dam is currently used for irrigation and recreation purposes. The significant issue of the proposed trade is that the use of the dam would change to include drinking water.

Some of the possible consequences of this proposal have resulted in community concern that has not yet been adequately dealt with. Therefore, the Department will now address the many issues raised by the proposed trade through a 'community engagement process'.

Despite the process being triggered in response to the Logue Brook dam proposal, the area of interest for this community engagement process has been defined as 'Waroona to Harvey'. This will allow the Department, and others, to gain a better understanding of the integration of water catchment management in the area. It will help address community concerns that fresh water bodies currently available for public use are being 'eyed-off' to address our public water supply crisis, potentially impacting on their recreation and tourism values.

The community engagement process will involve the general community as well as stakeholders with a more direct interest in Logue Brook dams future. An important difference with this proposal, compared to previous proposals dealing with public water supply issues, is that Logue Brook dam is not an existing gazetted drinking water source. Accordingly, the Department will be considering all options for the future use of Logue Brook dam in this process.

The community engagement process will examine whether Logue Brook dam should become a drinking water source. Information needed to answer this question includes, what would happen to the existing uses if it did; and what potential constraints need to be considered before a decision is made. The Department is seeking the communities views on these matters. That information will then be available to Government for a decision on the future of Logue Brook dam.