



## **Minutes of AGM and Public Forum** **Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, 7pm Granville Centre**

### 1. AGM Official Tasks.

David Rickson discussed committee business for 2011/12:

- the Group was incorporated following inaugural public meeting in mid 2011;
- Group's focus has been to develop working relationships with Department of Water (DoW), NACC, MRCC and other relevant agencies;
- Group has addressed regional issues as they have arisen, significantly requesting that the Minister for the Environment and DoW release the Draft Gingin Ground Water Allocation Report for public comment, that was written over two years ago;
- Group had a grant (administered through NACC) to respond to the allocation report however funds will be redirected as the report has not been issued. Funds contributed to establishing the internet site;
- Group's 2012/13 focus will be to increase membership, with annual fee of \$10 per household;
- Treasury Report passed; and
- Committee positions elected for 2012/13 David Rickson - Chairman, Terence Groeke - Vice Chairman, Secretary not filled, Treasurer - Sally Calder, Committee members - George Gifford, Adriaan du Toit, Lorraine Wyse, Kevin House, Peter Ansell, Reg Beale, Sandy Pate, Jill Wilson.

### 2. Panel opened.

DoW were an apology given the care taker mode prior to the election. Viola Landfill Business was an apology. Sam Camello represented Gingin Shire (Jeremy Edwards - CEO an apology). Other panel members gave an overview of their respective business:

Maureen Dobra, Loose Leaf Lettuce Company. A regional horticulturist business, being one of 26 growers regionally. In the region are four to five of largest growers in WA. Horticulturist businesses in establishing the business undertake hydrology studies to prove water, then ongoing monitoring is required. Every morning growers get SMS updates to



quantify crop replenish requirements from evaporation loss. i.e. no over watering is going on. Gingin is being identified as a prominent growing region.

Peter Davies, Image Resources. Mineral sand mining operations focussing on Boonnaring Reserve and deposit along Gingin Scarp in properties stretching from Phil Yukich to Kevin House. High Grade reserve. Image are undertaking studies for EPA approvals (a PER) this includes studying groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and dewatering. Proposed mining operations will dewater down to 40m in some places, stressing already stressed GDEs. Investigative drilling commences for water in Yarragadee Aquifer Sunday 10th March, drilling down 250 meters assuring providing 2GLpa requirement.

Proposed mining is to commence late 2014, though is still requiring environmental approvals. Mine duration expected to be 5-8 years. Hydrology report (H3) is due by April. This includes 28 piezometers over the 12km length testing on draw down. Helanne Witgrant - MWES supervisor.

Marty Aldridge - Nationals Senate Holder. Apologised from Shane Love and Grant Woodhams not being present due to a prior engagement. Marty remembered having experienced bores driving up growing up in Beermullah as adjacent olive tree farms drew down on the water. Sees food production as an opportunity.

3. Forum opened. Comments recorded were:

- Denzel Sim. Property East of Gingin. Discussed that BRL (bauxite resources mining company) plans to mine 2 million tonnes of bauxite on Bindoon Hill, requiring 150ML pa for 4-5 years. Alternative expert opinion suggests BRL will require 4-500MLpa. Suggesting to apply for water from Gingin Shire. Over the last three years the company has not applied or received a mining permit. Gingin farmers should be aware of miners with cheque books;

- Dee Margetts - In 1995 started her doctorate on the impacts on National Water Competition Policy introduced in 1995 (Australia or WA ?). Prior to water privatisation there was limited data available for Australia for the water available and needed. There has never been water studies



undertaken in relation to Australia's privatisation policy as there is no data available to do the study (including mining water loss and destruction);

- Sue Metcalf asked why the Draft Surface Water Allocation Plan has not been issued for 2 years and if the aerial investigations in September 2012 were included. (David Rickson responded that the Plan is on the minister's desk and aerial studies have not been included);

- Water Corporation were testing bores for selling land on Military Road (George Grant);

- A person said it was disappointing DoW were not present as they are accountable for problems. Another person suggested that Water Corp and DoW report to the same minister and have conflicting objectives;

- George Grant summed up his experience and quoted dropping draw downs over his 35 years working life;

- horticulturists suggest that paying for water is not sustainable for their business;

- Sam Burton spatial theory on hydrogeology based on his working experience in the area;

- Rob Kestel proposes that Kimberly Water Canal would meet water requirements for Perth Drinking water;

- Gavid Drew suggests that salination is a key problem;

- Kevin House suggests that there is 1 tonne of salt below ground and if the table rises then salinity will be the problem unless there are deep rooted trees; and

- Vegetables growers are looking at alternative growing solutions