



Hello

Chris Best, Cathy Griff, Mitchell Nadin, Paul Ronan, Nigel Sargent and Janine Goodwin.

SWAMP's summation of our meeting 1st December 2020

What a wonderful morning we participated in on Tuesday. Thank you so much for your participation.

SWAMP was extremely encouraged by our discussions with you. We participated in genuine community consultation where our expectations were acknowledged. We are keen to continue this thread of communication as exchanging dialogue will strengthen our united approach to the best solution/s for the Merimbula STP upgrade.

We note:

The EPA advised that a key component of the EIS assessment is Community Consultation to obtain the view of the relevant stakeholders. To that extent our meeting should have been of extreme value. We would appreciate AECOM making contact with SWAMP and other relevant stakeholders to acknowledge our input and expectations as none of the stakeholders present had been contacted by AECOM and we need to rectify this.

SWAMP expects that AECOM will prepare an EIS that is defensible, free of self-serving bias and credible to the public. Council indicated an expectation that at this stage the consultant, AECOM should be seeking such consultation. SWAMP will follow up with correspondence to council to organize a meeting with AECOM, SWAMP and BVSC to participate in our ongoing communication.

There was also discussion about the time this project has taken and a commitment from Council to ensure that Community engagement does take place prior to completion of the EIS. For efficiency this would make far more sense. Cathy indicated that she would facilitate this – we are available to coordinate the stakeholders as soon as practical to commence this consultation.

The Cochrane family and their Agricultural consultants tabled a preparedness to take, reuse and invest in treated effluent and to contribute to the costs involved in getting this to their property. Currently their storage capacity is 380ML with plans to construct another large dam.

Council reiterated their commitment to maximum reuse of the treated effluent. Chris Best asked to speak to the Cochranes re their irrigation requirements and we hope to assist in these interactions on behalf of the Cochranes.

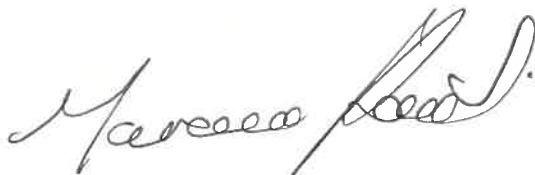
It has become quite evident from our discussion that demand for treated effluent and stormwater overflow is well in excess of annual forecasts. The Agricultural consultants made it quite clear that a 'home' for effluent can be found. "The more water, the stronger the farms."

We are of the understanding that as a result of council's commitment of reuse, treatment levels are planned to support 100% reuse as part of the current project proposal. All stakeholders present supported the highest level of treatment to avoid an excessive pipeline and cost for wet weather flows. As Nigel pointed out, the EPA issues a license to authorize discharges that do not pollute and maintain economic and environmental values.

All of the above, taken to their logical conclusions have SWAMP's full support. These are exciting times for Pambula and Merimbula with an opportunity to showcase our contribution to a circular economy and sustainable wastewater management.

In closing, thank you again for your valuable time and reinforcing your commitments to keep in line with the South Coast Regional Water Strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marianne Kambouridis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marianne Kambouridis
President of SWAMP