

Model Charter

Strategic Connections Project

Landholder Steering Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to provide input and guidance to their appointed farm designer, to assist in the development of a concept plan for the (*insert name*) strategic connections project (SCP) for approval by NVIRP. In preparing the SCP the committee will oversee the community consultation process, undertaken by the appointed irrigation designer and NVIRP with all affected landholders.

The scale of a SCP will vary depending on the size of the area served by water supply infrastructure where there exists a close inter-relationship whereby consideration of system modernisation alternatives should be considered. This may range from 8 properties to over 200 in more densely settled areas around towns.

Location

The Committee will assist with the SCP (*insert number*) in the (*insert name*) Irrigation Area comprising the (*insert channel number*) which services (*insert number*) landowners. A map of the SCP and a list of all landowners as at (*insert date*) are attached to this Charter.

Membership

Up to 8 landowners as nominated and appointed by the landowners whose properties are serviced by the above mentioned channel.

Governance

The Committee will elect a Chair and Deputy Chair. Secretariat services can be provided by NVIRP, as determined by the Committee. Minutes will be documented and circulated.

Timing, frequency and location of the meetings will be at the discretion of the committee. A quorum will consist of half the members plus one.

The Committee will report to, and may seek advice from NVIRP. The Committee cannot incur costs on behalf of NVIRP or represent NVIRP on any matter without prior approval.

Committee members will:

- Retain their position on the Committee while the project remains active.
- Be appointed on a voluntary basis and no remuneration will be paid.

The Committee may replace representatives who resign from the Committee.

The Committee might (in small areas) consist of all landholders, or in other areas be representative, however all SCP landholders may be invited to attend steering committee meetings. Decisions by Committees in relation to the SCP concept are usually made by consensus, but it may also be on a majority basis. All landowners will receive the final concept plan before submission to NVIRP.

Functions

The functions of the Committee are to:

- Appoint a farm designer and provide input and guidance to the Farm Designer in the development of the SCP;
 - Represent the diversity of landowner perspectives and assist NVIRP and those involved in the project to understand the issues and expectations of the community;
 - Provide advice to NVIRP on various aspects of the project as they are developed;
 - Develop, with NVIRP and the irrigation designer, consultation strategies that meet landowner needs and assist in informing and empowering landowners, including open-days and newsletters;
 - In conjunction with NVIRP appoint a project manager to oversee the on-farm works that will be carried out on landholders' properties, as a result of the approved SCP; and
 - Convene landowner meetings (as required) so that all landowners receive consistent information and have the opportunity to address any concerns.
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Outcome

In overseeing the development of the connections plan, the Committee are required to ensure their strategic connection plan:

- Is consistent with the need to meet NVIRP commitments in relation to budgets, water recovery and timelines;
- Complies with the requirements of G-MW, NVIRP and the modernisation committees; and
- Complies with local planning, environmental and cultural heritage requirements.

The Committee will finally make a request to NVIRP to approve their SCP and to start making individual offers to the area's landholders.

Privacy

NVIRP will not provide any private or commercial information to the committee or any other landowner or party. However, this does not prevent landowners volunteering their own specific information to the committee, nor does it prevent landowners from having confidential discussions with NVIRP.
