

Dr Paul Fraser: Climate Scientist	1.Christine Grundy: Capital Works	2.Trevor Budge: Population growth	3.Jessica Saigar: Greater Western Water	4. Tiburce Blanchy: Renewable Energy
As follow-up, we need to know what rainfall projections Coliban Water is using in its planning - BoM low/medium/high? 3	Infrastructure and upgrades are planned to a 25 year forecast to maximise the balance between longevity and cost efficiency. 1	Upgraded tech infrastructure, combined with the "the big weird" of the past 2 years are driving more people into CW's service area from Melbourne etc., resulting in higher than projected population increase in the region. 2	Ability to share knowledge with what works and what doesn't work with Coliban. Opportunity for Collaboration here. 1	Australia has a lot of sun and wind, so we can harvest that instead of nuclear, we should leverage that for the benefit of our community. 1
I understand rainfall is one thing and soil/catchment moisture is another thing. Drying has a compounding effect. Runoffs in the last 12 months have been surprisingly low, is that correct? Probably a Steve Healy question... 2	Community members positive about the projects planned for Bendigo region 1	These factors all lead our group to acknowledge WHY we must invest in infrastructure in regional areas ie both renewal and new technology 1	GWW debt works out to less per household than CW, but does not factor in debt to Melbourne Water for outsourcing treatment services. 1	Coliban working toward net carbon zero by 2030 1
winter rainfall on average decreasing by 20% which in Central Victoria will have impacts to catchment inflows 1	Where to be want to be - compromise, evaluation and assess costs, eg upgrade bendigo sewage treatment plant 1	There is population growth in all age sectors across the regions and all signs are that regional population trends will continue ie expect continued expansion in regions 1	Do all Water Authorities have the same charter from govt? i.e. core delivery & treatment responsibilities 1	Core challenge for the next 20 years is getting the energy generated from solar stored and moved to where we need it when 1
Is desalination and transport at scale technically viable? In the same way that we need batteries as backup for solar?Is desalination and transport at scale technically viable? In the same way that we need batteries as backup for solar? 1	EPA regulation likely to get stronger as environmental outcomes become a greater priority e.g. platypus in Castlemaine 1	3 things influencing regional population: 1. regional skills shortage, 2. change to economy with 80% of jobs now in service sector and this will drive population growth through jobs; 3. the last 2 years has broken the nexus b/t where people MUST live to enable education and employment. (ie this influences choices around where people can live) 1	Net Zero plan not yet defined for GWW 1	Colibans challenges for reaching net zero is around transport - needing to invest in electric vehicles. If Coliban can't do that they can instead invest in carbon offsets e.g. buying credits, planting reveg offsets or putting solar panel farm on Coliban land. This is where investment in net zero infrastructure will impact on customer pricing. But TB thinks this is all feasible 1
Dr Pandora Hope is the person paul suggested would be better versed in the topic 1	Recycled water used for open water bodies, irrigation of public spaces, and supplementing/substituting for raw water in rural applications. Use than an "extra" water source in suburban applications eg. toilets and garden taps has been trialed and deemed nonviable. 1	Need more time with Trevor 1	Noticed value / community response to engagement and advertising re efficient water usage, especially during drought 1	50% of colibans water energy use is for treating wastewater 1
Is this drying of Australia a natural cyclical phenomena or due to human activity? 1	Main job role is in capacity, service provision, and compliance. 1	Is there anyway Coliban Water's role in planning for growth can be strengthened? Developers and local govt effectively 'call the shots' and CW has to deliver. (Also on the smaller scale: Hepburn Council, with a constant churn of planners, makes planning decisions for the drinking water catchment for Kyneton, Castlemaine and other smaller towns - what hope for regional planning? 1	Do you expect farmland to reduce in your area in the future? Some place are growth areas, but farming will continue in others. 1	Hydroelectric power not viable due to lack of necessary terrain in region. 1
Moving water from A to B is Coliban Water's bread and butter - From Jarrah O'Shea 1	Getting the link between growth, planning and service 1		Challenges similar to Coliban: compliance, discharge into waterways, treating and recycling water for environmental outcomes and valuable resource. 1	Backlash on wind turbines around here, what's your opinion? TB: turbines are taller now; noise less; can understand that people are fearful if you put something unknown in their backyard. 1
How confident can Coliban be in its own climate modelling? how big of an impact will this have on the pricing of water in Australia? 1			Coliban's pricing is a little less than GWW. 1	What's your view on carbon credits? Once you've exhausted all your other options then a reputable company for carbon credit is good. 1
			Will be submitting to ECC 12 months later because they are a new business. 1	

There has been heavy rain recently in QLD ad NSW. What has been done to capture this excess for possible use in Victoria?		Authorities to Coordinate town planning and infrastructure to support sufficiently support population growth	GWW new business. Urban area Melbourne to growth areas. Need to invest in services to reach community. \$2 billion in debt. How do they recover cost in long run? Cost recovered evenly over asset life.	
The amount of rainfall gained to difficult to catch up		Cost of running the business changed compared to 30-40 years ago altered and expanded the trends, eg online learning/business, the radius of a job could expand to interstate or overseas	GWW Harvests stormwater for use	Coliban not far from zero, nearly at 50% now.
Based on the current trends for more dramatic weather can we expect more extremes of rainfall, drought, cyclonic weather in Vic. Is the prediction that we have reached the tipping point?		Better digital conditions and opportunities allow people to move. Overseas migrants might consider regional areas due to affordability	GWW take into account climate change, population growth in their assessment of future infrastructure needs	TB thinks zero carbon by 2030 is do-able
Please indicate how reafforestation could help the rain and watercycles we all learnt about at school once upon a time.		City to regional areas	GWW also has considerabel debt that they have to manage	Committed to use energy from Mildura solar farm until 2030.
		Employment and population pattern changed, eg shift from		TB: can we use water around water resources for solar panels in future
		2021 Census data will start to be released in a few months which will capture some of the COVID induced population growth		water treatment big user of energy
		Regional Australia Institute has some of the best up to date modelling on population growth in Australia - better than ABS and DELWP as they are more up to date		

5. Sam Kane: Young Community Leader

managing debt between current and future generations equally

3

seeing cost and social equity will be challenging in the future the best way is to balancing between generations

2

targeted education

1

6. Stuart Wilson: Intergenerational Debt

RFI: Scottish example of price increase to deal with intergenerational debt

1

The challenge relies on Right level of debt levelled with modest price for customers

1

Challenges faced by Coliban shared by different geographic areas, invest for future generations but whats a reasonable price rise today? And

Michael O'Neill: Govt. positions on managing water resources - questions

Do you operate feasibility studies that are paid for by the state govt to be utilised by all water retailers to make is more cost efficient. Eg solar program cost savings? State grants for New innovative projects for water purification etc? Is there special funds available as a grant for such projects which the results are shared through the state.

1

Michael O'Neill: Govt. positions on managing water resources - insights

the costs should be managed well, so that there isn't a huge price increase in water, because other costs will be rising in the future.



Great relationships with supermarket managers: 120 teams from supermarkets. It's a fantastic relationship. The Good Samaritan Act.



amazing how the community comes together in adversity



80-90 organisations we work with - primary schools, traditional charity services, community neighbourhood houses. Hamper program for La Trobe Uni students in COVID.



what sort of demographic do you deal with at Bendigo Food Share?



Sam: i feel optimistic, there's lots of grassroots organisation help community become resilient, my generation can make a difference, great young people in my area, other areas, making a real difference.



what does it feel like to be a young person now?



when? How long will it be distributed or stretched?



Have options on the bill to donate extra money to put towards specific projects (eg the water treatment project in castlemaine)



We need to be explicit on where the money goes... like the bills to explain what the service charge includes: what (even projected) is going to new assets, to infrastructure, to maintenance of the system, to innovations, to green energy etc



Debt is not uncommon amongst water utility providers and there has been a decade or so of strong investment in water infrastructure under a low interest rate regime which has been beneficial



More population means more revenue, but more population means more infrastructure and water capacity is required, price rise will need to keep up with or outpace debt accrual.



Current water systems have been in place for 60-70 years and costing more to maintain/replace.



investment in technology continues to create efficiency opportunities. Big theme at present - i.e. leak detection, predicting breaks



Are there any industry-wide policies on (i) responsibility for preparing for drought, and (ii) responsibility for wider social contributions such as 'investing in the liveability' of towns?



Coliban's challenges re asset investment are not uncommon, evidenced nationally



is there an expectation into the future that the department will need to fund/co-fund major capital works at a state level to sure up water security gaps that can not be attributed to a single region?



How much does water strategy change with a change of government?



Can CW provide us with the Minister's statement of obligations & letter of expectations/priorities?



is there a safety-net / ceiling at which cost recovery is deemed to be unreasonable for consumers - for example if renewal works would see \$x added to consumers which would mean most consumers could not afford the bills?



what are the minister's commitments this year?



What examples can you give about these types of co-invested projects?



What is govt's core charter/requirements of water authorities?



Could you pls give us an overview of the Govt Water Strategy into the future.



In DELWP's view what are the biggest challenges facing water utilities in meeting the outcomes in their strategic plans?

