



# Summary Information Sheet

Board Meeting 147

Held at Tatura on Thursday 26 April 2007

## *A summary of information and deliberations*

	<b>PRESENT:</b>	
<b>Don Cummins</b> Chairperson	<b>John Pettigrew</b> Deputy Chairperson	<b>John Brooke OAM</b> Director
<b>Craig Cook</b> Director	<b>Peter Fitzgerald</b> Director	<b>Des Powell</b> Director
	<b>Jean Sutherland</b> Director	
<b>Russell Cooper</b> Chief Executive	<b>Trevor Ierino</b> Manager Business & Finance	<b>Brian Carr</b> Corporate Secretary

*For queries regarding this information sheet, please contact Brian Carr on telephone No. 03 5833 5550 or email [brianc@g-mwater.com.au](mailto:brianc@g-mwater.com.au)*

*The next Board meeting will be held at Kerang on Wednesday 23 May 2007.*

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### **Drought and Water Resource Issues**

A presentation was made to the Board on end of season matters, the Board noting the very low volumes of water resources remaining – Eildon holding 5.8% of capacity as at 24 April 2007 compared with the previous record low of 8% on 7 May 2003. Lake Eppalock now holds less than 1% of its capacity. On the Murray system inflows to 24 April were approx 40 GL, compared with the previous April minimum of 68 GL in 1923.

Emphasis is now on contingency planning for the next irrigation season; an updated outlook will be published on 15 May.

### **Tariff Policy Review**

The Board endorsed proposals for consultation with WSCs and other key stakeholders during May.

### **Unbundling and Bulk Water Pricing Issues**

Unbundling of water entitlements, separation of water titles from land titles, tagged water trading and the widening of interstate trade are fundamental changes to be introduced on 1 July 2007.

Under these arrangements up to 10% of the water shares in each basin may be owned without being associated with land. The Board approved a proposal whereby G-MW will be

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the billing authority for all water shares not associated with land except for where an owner receiving a delivery service from another Victorian water authority elects otherwise. The Board also approved a proposal for the Entitlement Storage Fee for water shares not associated with land (ie, water in the 10%) to be billed by G-MW at the greater of the system price or the basin price.

### **2007/08 ESC Pricing Submission**

The principles for developing 2007/08 prices were agreed; the Board also noted the process for developing prices for the next Water Plan regulatory period of 2008/09 to 2012/13.

### **Cairn Curran Dam Safety Upgrade Project Stage 2**

Work on the \$12.5m Cairn Curran Dam Safety Upgrade Project Stage 2 has commenced. The project, which will strengthen the dam embankments to meet modern design standards, is being managed by G-MW utilising locally hired plant and labour. The project is due to be completed in November; normal operation of the dam will not be affected by the works.

### **Reconfiguration Working Groups**

As part of the roll-out of reconfiguration plans, working groups are being established to assist with community engagement and the development of options. At its April meeting the Board established three working groups – for the Shepparton, Rochester-Campaspe and Murray Valley Irrigation Areas; it also appointed members and approved charters for each group. This follows similar arrangements established in September 2006 for the Pyramid-Boort and Torrumbarry Irrigation Areas.

The Board is most appreciative of the perspectives and skills that members of the working groups bring to these important reconfiguration projects.

### **May Board Meeting**

An inspection tour of the Torrumbarry Irrigation Area is being arranged for Tuesday 22 May and is to include a visit of the Torrumbarry Weir and inspection of a number of sites where major improvement change is planned through reconfiguration and modernisation. The Board meeting will meet with the Water Services Committee, community members and G-MW employees that evening; the Board meeting will be held at Kerang on Wednesday 23 May.

### **REPORTS**

The Board addressed further reports:

- WSC meetings and the resolutions passed.
- Lake Mokoan – Return to Wetlands project.
- Pyramid Creek salt interception.
- Management reports.
- Quarterly water trading.
- Alleged water thefts.
- Contingent liability.

Brian Carr  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

Russell Cooper  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1 May 2007