



Summary Information Sheet

Board Meeting 148

Held at Kerang on Wednesday 23 May 2007

A summary of information and deliberations

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

Director Jean Sutherland was overseas; her apology for inability to attend this meeting, submitted at the previous meeting of the Board, was accepted.

For queries regarding this information sheet, please contact Brian Carr on telephone No. 03 5833 5550 or email brianc@g-mwater.com.au

The next Board meeting will be held at Tatura on Tuesday 19 June 2007.

Water Resources Issues and Seasonal Outlook

A report on water resource issues was presented, with the Board noting that water reserves in all systems are at their lowest ever. Recent rainfall is helping to dampen catchment areas and will allow for increased runoff to storages when further rain follows, however, to date runoff from autumn rain has been minimal.

There are a number of uncertainties relating to allocations, season start, water sharing between states and assignment of priorities. Goulburn-Murray Water will ensure customers, industry and the media are kept abreast of developments. In this regard the Authority's outlook for the coming season, released on 15 May, is intended to give an advance overview of possible scenarios. An industry bodies forum was held on Friday 25 May to consider the scenarios and related issues.

2008 Water Plan

Goulburn-Murray Water's 2008 Water Plan will operate for the five years from 1 July 2008. The Water Plan aims to provide sufficient detail to satisfy the Essential Services Commission (ESC) that proposed prices provide sufficient revenue over the 5-year regulatory period to allow Goulburn-Murray Water to meet its obligations and to deliver the level of service required by its customers.

A presentation was made to the Board at its 23 May meeting on the development of the Water Plan, following which the Board endorsed the preliminary draft as the basis for consultation with Water Services Committees. An initial briefing was provided to WSC Chairs on Friday 25 May and detailed consultation will be conducted with each WSC during June. The draft Water Plan will be released for wider consultation on 30 June; the final 2008 Water Plan is due to be submitted to the ESC on 15 September.

The ESC will assess the Water Plan against principles outlined in the Water Industry Regulatory Order and decide whether to approve or specify the prices or the manner in which prices are to be determined.

2007/08 Corporate Plan

The 2007/08 Corporate Plan has been developed from concepts arising from the Board's September 2006 strategic planning workshop and further developed with a review, and inclusion of additional strategies, discussed at the Board's March 2007 meeting.

The Board discussed the draft 2007/08 Corporate Plan and provided feedback on its development. The final draft will be submitted to the June Board meeting for approval.

Regional Directions for Irrigation Development

The Board endorsed the '*Regional Directions for Irrigation Development*', a document originating from the Victorian Government's White Paper '*Securing Our Water Future Together*' and which sets requirements for irrigation development in Victoria.

The '*Regional Directions for Irrigation Development*' takes into account water-use licences and higher standards for irrigation development and will guide irrigation development approval in the North East, Goulburn Broken, North Central and Mallee CMAs.

A Memorandum of Understanding between G-MW and the CMAs is being developed.

Water Storage Amenity 2007/08 Business Plan

G-MW's Water Storage Amenity business is established to provide sustainable recreation services at water storages, meeting customer and stakeholder needs and supporting regional economic growth. In doing this it seeks to achieve a balance of social, economic and environmental considerations.

Establishment of the Water Storage Amenity business is an initiative of the current Board.

The Board noted the key achievements for 2006/07 by this business; it subsequently approved the 2007/08 Water Storage Amenity Business Plan.

Board visit to Torrumbarry Area

The directors of Goulburn-Murray Water visited the Torrumbarry Irrigation Area on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 May, inspecting the Torrumbarry Weir and travelling to Kow Swamp, the Kerang Lakes and Lake Boga. They held their May Board meeting at Goulburn-Murray Water's Kerang office on Wednesday 23 May.

During their time in the area the Board and senior management of Goulburn-Murray Water met with the Torrumbarry Water Services Committee, the Mayor and CEO of Gannawarra Shire, representatives of the Rural City of Swan Hill, the North Central Catchment

Management Authority, the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and G-MW employees.

David Downie, General Manager, Office of Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment also attended a dinner meeting on the evening of 22 May with those parties, at which he spoke on a range of water industry matters. The interaction provided the opportunity for those attending to meet and talk with the senior civil servant for water reform in Victoria.

Interaction with DSE

David Downie attended the Board meeting and provided an update on state government policy arrangements, discussing these in the context of the partnership approach to the implementation of projects with Goulburn-Murray Water.

Reconfiguration Planning

The Board established a reconfiguration working group for the Central Goulburn Irrigation Area, comprising representatives from the Central Goulburn WSC, local community, Department of Primary Industries, City of Greater Shepparton, Shire of Campaspe and the Goulburn Broken CMA. Establishment of the Central Goulburn reconfiguration working group follows appointments last month to similar committees for the Shepparton, Rochester-Campaspe and Murray Valley Irrigation Areas and now sees working groups established for each of G-MW's six Irrigation Areas.

The reconfiguration working groups are an integral part of the governance arrangements for the reconfiguration program, which is an important element contained in the Victorian Government's White Paper '*Securing Our Water Future Together*'.

The Board noted a report on specific reconfiguration plans, the water savings targets as set, and water savings achieved to date.

Water Services Committee 2007 Workshop

Planning for the 2007 WSC Workshop, to be held at Bendigo on 7-8 August was discussed; management will now finalise arrangements for this annual event.

2007/08 General Insurance Renewal

A number of targets for the 2007/08 renewal of G-MW's general insurances were approved by the Board and are to form a fundamental platform for G-MW management in liaising with its insurance broker and insurers through the renewal process. A report on the outcome will be presented to the July meeting of the Board.

REPORTS

The Board addressed further reports:

- Management and financial reports.
- WSC meetings and their resolutions passed.
- Board committee reports.
- Shepparton modernisation project.
- Mokoan – return to wetlands project.
- Payment dishonour fee.
- Extension and diminishment of irrigation districts.
- Declaration of Tungamah Water District serviced properties.
- Shire of Strathbogie special use precinct.

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- Capital projects report to 31 March 2007.
- Watermove.
- AGL Hydro contract agreements.

Brian Carr
CORPORATE SECRETARY

Russell Cooper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

29 May 2007