



## *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>Russell Cooper</b> Managing Director	<b>Peter Fitzgerald</b> Director
<b>Des Powell</b> Director	<b>Jean Sutherland</b> Director	
<b>Trevor Ierino</b> Executive Manager Business & Finance	<b>Brian Carr</b> Corporate Secretary	

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*The next Board meeting will be held at Tatura on Wednesday 26 September 2007.*

### **Board Appointments**

This is the second last meeting of the current Board of Goulburn-Murray Water as the Minister is due to make an announcement of appointment to the new Board prior to 30 September 2007.

### **Water Resource Issues**

Water resource availability is critically low in all supply systems. Management made a presentation to the Board on factors involved, advising on the state sharing arrangements which at this point provide a relatively advantageous position for Murray inflows and which give a strong underpinning to the initial 5% allocation on the Murray system.

Management reported on the 2 August industry bodies forum which provided valuable perspectives on season length, season close and Waranga pumping. The advice from the meeting has provided support and valuable assistance in planning for the following:

- a season close date currently set at 15 March;
- initial water resources being directed to increases in allocations up to 20%;
- further increases in water resources then being used to extend the season closing date to 15 April;
- beyond this milestone, resource increases are to be split evenly between increasing allocations and extending the season towards 15 May; and
- planning for the pumping of Waranga unless the Goulburn allocation reaches 50% by 15 October.

The Board noted and encouraged the continuing communications being undertaken by G-MW management including forums with farmers and industry service providers in collaboration with DPI.

### **Foodbowl Modernisation Project**

The Board spent considerable time at this meeting addressing its input to the planning stages of the Foodbowl Modernisation Project which is being made to the Steering Committee via Board representatives, Chairperson Don Cummins and Director John Brooke. The Board also referred to analysis of G-MW's current experience with the Pyramid-Boort Future Management Strategy to give practical meaning to some of the advice being provided.

The Board also considered a report on reconfiguration planning and its part as an integral step in system modernisation.

### **Safe Drinking Water Policy**

Water Storage Manager Risk Management Plans (RMPs) have been developed by G-MW for all relevant water systems as required under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*.

The Board approved amendment to its safe drinking water policy, addressing a management recommendation arising from the 2007 annual reviews of RMPs and seeking to confirm the Board's commitment to effective drinking water quality management.

### **Campaspe Supplementary Supply**

The Board approved a 12 month extension of the Funding Deed with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for the Campaspe Supplementary Supply, a concept that could enable water to be supplied from the Waranga Western Channel to the Campaspe Irrigation District (CID). Subject to confirmation of the extension by DSE, the additional time will allow for consideration of other supply options to the CID as part of the reconfiguration program.

### **Electrical Incidents**

The Board addressed with considerable concern reports of two electrical incidents which, although not causing injuries, were potentially quite dangerous. The Board noted and supported the Managing Director's efforts to heighten the level of focus on achieving more acceptable safety results; nonetheless, it resolved to note the unsatisfactory application of the corporation's OH&S policies and procedures and directed the ongoing review of G-MW's documentation and practices to ensure that the risk of repetition of electrical incidents is reduced to an absolute minimum.

### **2007 Water Services Committee Workshop**

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual WSC workshop was held at Bendigo on 7-8 August 2007, with the theme 'System Modernisation.' There were a total of 108 attendees.

The Board noted feedback from attendees' evaluations, which will be used as part of the continual improvement in the running of these workshops. At this stage planning for the 2008 WSC workshop will assume a new format and different venue and timing for the event to be held in early June.

**Director and Employee Trading**

G-MW maintains and audits a policy and procedures covering the trading of water entitlements by directors and employees. The Board addressed a report of a recent audit of conformance with the policy, noting the actions taken as a result of the audit and revision to the procedures to further improve effectiveness.

**Purchasing and Contract Management**

A newly developed purchasing procedures manual and changes to the contract administration procedures manual were approved by the Board, subject to amendments discussed at the Board meeting.

**REPORTS**

The Board addressed further reports:

- Management and financial reports.
- 2006/07 Water Districts operational review.
- 2007/08 insurance renewal.
- 2006/07 annual report.
- 2007 ANCOLD conference.
- 2007 ICID conference.
- Capital projects report to 30 June 2007.
- Current asset valuations.

Brian Carr  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

Russell Cooper  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

3 September 2007