

## *A summary of information and deliberations*

### PRESENT:

<b>Stephen Mills</b> Chairman	<b>Craig Cook</b> Deputy Chairman	<b>John Brooke OAM</b> Director
<b>Russell Cooper</b> Managing Director	<b>Peter Fitzgerald</b> Director	<b>Claire Penniceard</b> Director
<b>Des Powell</b> Director	<b>Catherine Scott</b> Director	<b>Jeff Huddle</b> Acting 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 14 November 2007.*

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### **Board Appointments**

New appointments were made to the Board of Goulburn-Murray Water effective 1 October 2007, the appointments being made by the Minister for Water, the Hon Tim Holding MP. The new appointments are: Stephen Mills (Chairman); Claire Penniceard (Director); and, Catherine Scott (Director).

The Minister also re-appointed Directors John Brooke, Craig Cook and Peter Fitzgerald.

Former Board members, Chairman Don Cummins, Deputy Chairman John Pettigrew and Director Jean Sutherland completed their terms of appointment on 30 September 2007.

*New Board members  
Claire Penniceard,  
Catherine Scott and  
Stephen Mills  
inspecting G-MW  
works*



### **Water Resource Issues**

A presentation was made on water resources and the season outlook.

The Board noted with concern the trends to exceptionally low rainfalls and low inflows established in August, which have unfortunately continued to worsen in September and October. It also noted that outlooks for the remainder of the season are now based on a very dry scenario corresponding to inflows having 99 chances in 100 of being exceeded.

Advice of the State Government's decision to provide a drought relief package was received during the course of the Board meeting. The Board welcomed the announcement and was particularly pleased to see that rebates will be available for fixed water charges and that funds will be made available to cover the cost of pumping Waranga Basin.

### **2007/08 Irrigation Season Loss Management Targets**

A report on loss targets for 2007/08, developed in consultation with operations managers, was addressed by the Board. This year's targets take into account the low allocations on both of the major systems this year but are nonetheless set at 128GL below 2006/07 targets.

### **Foodbowl Modernisation Project**

Goulburn-Murray Water's response to the Foodbowl Modernisation Project Steering Committee's draft report was finalised at the meeting and delivered to the Steering Committee secretariat that afternoon.

The Board considered a number of measures that can assist Goulburn-Murray Water in adapting its water savings and reconfiguration programs to the Foodbowl Modernisation program. The new Board aims to achieve a growing and co-operative interaction on the Foodbowl Modernisation Project. In the coming months the Board will also seek to establish a similar working relationship with the new State Owned Entity that is likely to be established for this project.

Linked to this the Board will be seeking the successful implementation of the Shepparton Modernisation and CG1234 projects to ensure that water savings are available for the initial supplies to Melbourne by 2010/11. To this end the Board approved a contract for the automation of the East Goulburn No 12 channel, being a component part of the Shepparton Modernisation project.

### **Murray Valley Drain 11**

The Murray Valley Drain 11 catchment is located north of Nathalia and is within the Murray Valley Irrigation Area. The drain forms part of the Shepparton Irrigation Regional Surface Water Management Strategy and is designed to reduce accessions to the watertable, limit the rate of salination, prevent waterlogging of agricultural soils and provide significant environmental gains by restoring appropriate flooding regimes to key wetlands. Stage 1B of the project consists of 6.9 km of open drain and is funded by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

The Board resolved to approve the construction of Stage 1B; works are now programmed for commencement prior to December.

### **Lake Hume Land and On-Water Management Plan**

The Lake Hume Land and On-Water Management Plan provides a strategic approach to management of land and on-water issues at the lake, aiming to identify and protect important values associated with the lake by outlining priority issues and key actions to

be implemented over the next 5 years. The plan is now completed and will be released upon endorsement of the three key parties involved, namely the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the State Water Corporation (NSW), and Goulburn-Murray Water.

The Board noted the report and, with minor amendment as discussed, subsequently endorsed its release.

### **Lake Eildon Tourism Peak Body**

The Shires of Murrindindi and Mansfield, together with Goulburn-Murray Water, are developing a proposal to support the establishment of an industry driven (predominantly tourism) peak body, consisting of skills based stakeholders with an interest in the development of Lake Eildon as an iconic tourism destination for Victoria. The Board noted the extent of progress to date and endorsed Goulburn-Murray Water's ongoing participation with this initiative.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Board noted a report from the Managing Director on planned organisational changes designed to improve linkages to the Foodbowl modernisation process. The changes are in the main a relocation of staff but will involve the appointment of one additional senior manager (Executive Manager Modernisation, reporting directly to the Managing Director) to oversee this critical area; the unit will manage the key areas of:

- Reconfiguration Planning and Implementation
- Retail Assets Construction
- Technical Services
- Water Savings.

### **Deputy Chairman**

The Directors resolved that Craig Cook be appointed as the Deputy Chairman of Goulburn-Murray Water.

### **Board Committees**

Membership of the Board's Financial and Management Audit Committee was agreed as follows:

John Brooke OAM	(Committee Chairman)
Des Powell	(Committee Member)
Catherine Scott	(Committee Member)

Appointments to remaining committees is listed for consideration at the Board's November 2007 meeting.

### **REPORTS**

The Board received further reports:

- 2007/08 billing.
- 2007/08 borrowings.
- Wakiti Lagoon water savings project.
- Asset and risk management strategy.
- Amendment to Irrigation District boundary.
- Water entitlement unbundling.

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- Groundwater transfer fees.
- Environmental water for Woorinen North and Round Lakes.
- Customer data characteristics.
- Alleged water theft incidents.
- Contingent liability.
- Interim electricity supply agreement.
- Capital projects report.

Brian Carr  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

Russell Cooper  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2 November 2007