



# Summary Information Sheet

Board Meeting 165

Held at Tatura on Wednesday 8 October 2008

## *A summary of information and deliberations*

### PRESENT:

**Stephen Mills**  
Chairman

**Craig Cook**  
Deputy Chairman

**John Brooke OAM**  
Director

**Peter Fitzgerald**  
Director

**Claire Penniceard**  
Director

**Brian Carr**  
Corporate Secretary

**Catherine Scott**  
Director

**David Stewart**  
Managing Director

**Ruth McGrath**  
Manager Water  
Administration

*For queries regarding this information sheet, please contact Ruth McGrath (Acting Corporate Secretary) on telephone (03) 5833 5550 or email [ruthm@g-mwater.com.au](mailto:ruthm@g-mwater.com.au)*

*The next Board meeting will be held in Melbourne on Tuesday 11 November 2008.*

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### **Water Resource Issues**

The Board received a presentation on current water resource issues and will continue to closely monitor inflows and allocation outlooks for each water system. Management provided the Board with an update of the current resource situation. Parts of the Goulburn Valley recorded rainfall of less than 20% of September averages.

### **Industry Bodies Forum**

Planning is underway for an industry bodies forum to be held at Tatura on Friday 21 November 2008.

### **Future Farming Advisory Panel**

The Chairman reported on two very successful meetings with the Minister for Agriculture and the Future Farming Advisory Panel. The first meeting was on 1 October 2008 at Shepparton and the second was at the Panel's meeting at Tatura on 2 October 2008. Each of these events were hosted by G-MW. The meetings were followed by an inspection tour which was most successful and allowed for members of the Future Farming Advisory Panel to meet directly with leading irrigators in areas undergoing modernisation.

### **System Modernisation**

The Board discussed NVIRP's system modernisation project and noted the importance of a close working relationship between G-MW/NVIRP and also the importance of clearly defining roles and responsibilities between the two organisations. Discussion was also held on integration of existing programs, and in particular, G-MW's current reconfiguration program.

**Drought Communications**

G-MW is taking every opportunity to provide stakeholders with relevant and timely information during the current dry conditions. The Board were advised G-MW had updated its website with a Drought Response section containing comprehensive data and information vital to the decision making of customers and industry across the region.

In addition, advertisements have been run in regional newspapers to alert readers to this new facility. Allocation charts on G-MW's internet site now show available allocations only, without inclusion of carryover entitlements.

**Management Report – Stakeholder Relationships**

The Executive Manager Water Delivery Services (WSC) reported on the WSC induction day, held at Tatura on 1 October 2008 and co-hosted by the Chairman. The day was attended by four of the five recently appointed WSC members. Participants' feedback confirmed the day was very successful and a follow-up session is to be arranged for this coming December.

**Environmental Management System Overview and Induction**

An overview of G-MW's Environmental Management System (EMS) was provided to Directors at the meeting. The presentation detailed the various stages of the EMS, each of which is designed to deliver continual improvement.

The Chairman has recently attended a meeting with representatives of the Goulburn Valley Environmental Group to discuss environmental improvements that might be gained in conjunction with irrigation system modernisation.

**Regional Groundwater Services Committee Charter**

A revised charter for the Regional Groundwater Services Committee was discussed and approved.

**NRSWS**

The meeting was followed by a comprehensive presentation by Campbell Fitzpatrick of DSE on the Draft Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy, which was at that time unpublished. The strategy was subsequently released 10 October 2008.

**Reports noted**

Director and Employee Trading – Audit  
Capital Project Reporting.

Ruth McGrath  
Acting CORPORATE SECRETARY

David Stewart  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

23 October 2008