



Summary Information Sheet

Board Meeting 167

Held at Tatura on Wednesday 10 December 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	Des Powell Director
Catherine Scott Director	David Stewart Managing Director	Brian Carr Corporate Secretary

For queries regarding this information sheet, please contact Brian Carr, Corporate Secretary, on telephone (03) 5833 5550 or email brianc@g-mwater.com.au

The next Board meeting will be held at Flowerdale on Monday 2 February 2009.

Water Resources

The Board was advised on current water resource issues, with management confirming advice on current allocations and trends in comparison with recent low allocation seasons.

As at 3 December losses on the Goulburn system are within target but slightly over target on the Torrumbarry system, the latter being a more complex system to operate with its lakes and natural carriers. Loss performance could be adversely affected by a slowdown in deliveries over summer.

Operating Plans are being maintained and updated for each system and G-MW is now working with DSE and other water corporations on the development of 2009/10 contingency plans.

The Board noted that newsletters were to be mailed by Friday 12 December to all customers, providing up-to-date information on water delivery services for each customer group.

Modernisation

System modernisation continues as Goulburn-Murray Water's prime strategic activity. G-MW is working with NVIRP to modernise the northern Victorian irrigation system, while continuing to provide best-practice services to each of the corporation's customers.

The Board was advised of the matters addressed at the 17 November NVIRP / G-MW joint Boards' coordination meeting, the 12th such meeting held to date and at which NVIRP was represented by Geoff Akers and Barry Steggall and G-MW by Craig Cook and Catherine Scott.

The Board considered connections frameworks issues, which are to be discussed with NVIRP at the 22 December joint Boards' coordination meeting, followed by consultation with WSCs.

The Board also considered the Shepparton Modernisation Project and issues being addressed, including discussions with the Shepparton WSC, to bring this project to completion.

The Board noted that the Relationship Agreement between NVIRP and G-MW, an agreement covering the coordinated approach to the NVIRP projects, has been further developed and that any aspects to be finalised would be addressed at the 22 December joint Boards' coordination meeting.

The Board was advised of G-MW management's continued work with NVIRP and DSE to enable the transition of the reconfiguration program from G-MW to NVIRP. A further, and likely final, report is expected to be available for the Board's February 2009 meeting, which should allow the necessary transfers to then take place.

Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy

The Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy is a 50-year blueprint for the management of water resources in northern Victoria. A number of workshops have been held with Water Services Committees and G-MW management has also reviewed the strategy from a G-MW perspective, highlighting issues that may need further comment.

Following discussion the Board formalised the basis of G-MW's response to the draft Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy. It was noted that a number of WSCs were to make separate submissions.

Workforce and OHS

A report on current workforce and OHS issues and trends was received by the Board.

Board Committees

The Board established a new Committee, comprised of G-MW directors and making this the third current Committee of the Board, named the Risk and Compliance Committee.

Board committee memberships are now:

Remuneration Committee

Craig Cook, Committee Chairman
Stephen Mills
John Brooke OAM

Financial & Management Audit Committee

John Brooke OAM, Committee Chairman
Peter Fitzgerald
Catherine Scott

Risk & Compliance Committee

Catherine Scott, Committee Chairperson
Peter Fitzgerald
Claire Penniceard
Des Powell

Board Committee reports were received at the 10 December 2008 Board meeting as follows:

Remuneration Committee: The meeting held on 9 December considered, and subsequently noted, interim remuneration arrangements for General Managers; the Managing Director's mid-term performance review; and, the Minister's advice regarding Board remuneration.

Financial & Management Audit Committee: This Committee also met on 9 December, when it addressed internal audit reviews; risk management; a revised financial reporting format; 2008/09 audit plan (which the Committee recommended to the Board, following which it was approved); and, the costs of modernisation projects.

Reports

The Board addressed further reports:

- Financial reports.
- Capital projects report.
- Stakeholder relationships.
- Public liability management.
- Insurance requirements.
- On-water infrastructure management plans.
- Low storage levels and management of lake bed vegetation.
- Mildura-Merbein salt interception scheme refurbishment.
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Strategy Workshop

The Board will conduct its 2009 strategy workshop on 3 February, holding the event in conjunction with its Board meeting on 2 February.

Board Reunion

Nearly 20 of the past and present 26 G-MW directors, together with partners, attended a G-MW Board reunion in early December hosted by G-MW Chairman, Stephen Mills. The reunion was an opportunity to reflect on the many challenges that have and continue to shape water management in northern Victoria. The evening was also an opportunity for directors to acknowledge the contribution of and to farewell G-MW Corporate Secretary, Brian Carr, since 1994 and who is to retire at the end of February 2009.



Pictured L-R: Stephen Mills (Chairman from October 2007); Brian Carr (Corporate Secretary); Peter Ross-Edwards AM (Chairman 1994-2001); John Dainton (Chairman 2001-2004).

Brian Carr
CORPORATE SECRETARY

David Stewart
MANAGING DIRECTOR

24 December 2008