



**Summary of
Board meeting 177
Monday 9 November, 2009
Tatura Office**

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

Inquiries to:
Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary
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Conflict of Interests

Conflicts of interest were discussed with respect to Directors, staff and Water Service Committee members who are approached by NVIRP to discuss modernisation and connections. It was noted that NVIRP has its own internal policy to follow when dealing with this group.

The Board agreed that members of this group were at a disadvantage in that the public may consider they will be given preferential treatment because of their position with G-MW. This should be avoided by adopting an appropriate procedure which would ensure that Directors, staff and Water Service Committee members are not given any opportunity to be treated otherwise than as an ordinary customer. The NVIRP policy will be considered as a starting point.

Water Service Committee attendances

The Chairman and the Managing Director will attend each WSC at least once in the new year, with additional meetings attended when special needs arise. Non Executive Directors were encouraged to attend the occasional WSC meeting and a schedule of meetings will be provided to assist planning.

Board related issues

- The Board undertook a performance review which will be finalised at the next meeting. DSE will be advised of the outcome.
- DSE has informed G-MW that the board appointment process for water corporations in Victoria has commenced and that advertisements would soon be appearing in local papers. It was acknowledged that directors ending their current term on 30 June 2010 are Claire Penniceard, Des Powell and Peter Fitzgerald.
- A meeting of the Chairman and Managing Director with a local politician has been deferred to mid December.

Operational Issues

- DSE is unable to provide an indication of when approval of the 4% exemption criteria will be given, as there are currently differing views on movement and termination of delivery shares
- The development of NVIRP's business case has been approved by DEHWA and is now occupying considerable G-MW resources and time
- The on-farm efficiency bid is due on 17 December. It was commented that G-MW would mention in bid documentation its strong position on the importance of conducting a skills based, open and transparent appointment process for a Project Manager

Ian Moorhouse was appointed Acting Managing Director for the period 10 to 13 November 2009 in the absence of David Stewart.

Governance Report

In discussing governance issues, the following was addressed –

- The Board expressed its appreciation for services to the Mid Murray Catchment Committee of Laurie Fitzsimmons, who is relocating and has resigned from that Committee

Watermove

The Board noted the appointment of the interim board of Watermove and further noted the temporary postponement of the appointment of independent directors to early in the new year and that the first meeting of the interim Watermove board will occur next month.

Syndicates and Shared Service Points

G-MW has agreed a conceptual model for syndicates and the legal and operational requirements are currently being addressed. Consultation with WSC's and other stakeholders has indicated support for the model. From the paper and a presentation the following was noted –

- G-MW will support formation of syndicates by developing a model which will include legal documentation covering internal member relationships and the syndicates' relationship with G-MW

- Such documentation would include both mandatory and optional components
- Some changes to the Water Act would be advisable and G-MW is consulting with DSE on this

Campaspe Groundwater Reference Committee

The Board noted that the Committee was formed to review the Campaspe Deep Lead Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan and to provide the Board with advice on the implementation of the new or revised plan. That the review has been completed and accordingly the Board passed the following resolution –

“RESOLVED that the Campaspe Groundwater reference Committee appointed by the Board on 19 June 2007 having completed its charter requirement be and is hereby dissolved and that the members be formally notified of this and thanked for their contribution.”

Spring Hill WSPA Management Plan Rules

The Board considered a request from the Spring Hill Groundwater Reference Committee that, pending the approval of a new management plan for the proposed new Loddon Highlands WSPA, the current Spring Hill WSPA Management Plan Rules be adopted for the Loddon Highlands WSPA and passed the following resolution –

“RESOLVED that the rules prescribed in the current Spring Hill Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) Groundwater Management Plan as interim operating rules be and are hereby adopted for the proposed new Loddon Highlands WSPA (following its declaration) and that these rules

- a) will apply to the current Spring Hill area only, and
- b) will remain in place until a new management plan is approved for the proposed new Loddon Highlands WSPA.”

William Hovell Dam Safety Project

The Board agreed that it would consider the approval of a contractor for the proposed \$3m spillway strengthening project by circular resolution following determination of the preferred contractor through the tender process.

Health Safety and Wellbeing Quarterly Report

In considering the ageing G-MW workforce, it was noted that the quarterly report did show targets or pick up on improvement strategies (eg – what has G-MW done to improve the working conditions and general health of an older workforce). Negative statistics should include a report on how they are being addressed.

The following reports were noted by the Board –

Contingent Liability
Energy and Water Ombudsman
Capital Performance Report

Summary of Alleged Water Theft
Financial Report

David Stewart
Managing Director

Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary

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