



**Summary of  
Board meeting 178  
Monday 9 December, 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

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**Chairman's Report**

- The report of the Chairman was noted.

**Managing Director's Report**

The Managing Director's report was discussed, with the following noted –

- Water allocations have improved as a result of recent intermittent rainfall
- Submissions on northern region sustainable water are being sought. G-MW will make a submission and will involve WSC's for input and or submission of separate responses
- DSE recently attended G-MW to advise a new draft reporting benchmark format designed to capture much of the high level performance reporting already provided in different formats to DSE. G-MW has been requested to comment on the draft and inform the Board on the final agreed reporting format

The Board appointed Shane McGrath, General Manager Technical Services, acting Managing Director for the period 27 December 2009 to 27 January 2010 inclusive, in the absence of D Stewart.

## **Governance Report**

In discussing governance issues, the following was addressed –

- The Board expressed its appreciation to the following Water Services Committee members following their recent retirement –  
                    John Gall                    Russell McKay  
                    Fred White                    Ray Henderson
- The Board was advised that management supported Tungamah WSC's view that any construction of infrastructure to share synergies with Shepparton D&S Community Syndicate should be at the Syndicate's expense and should not impact on existing customers or levels of service
- The Board confirmed the procedure for communications between the Board and its advisory Water Service Committees

## **WSC Member Declarations**

The Board agree that non signing of the declaration of interest and of compliance with the Charter and the Code by members of any WSC is not an acceptable governance situation for the Board with respect to its Committees, and that WSC members who have not signed and returned the declarations receive a letter on Monday 14 December on behalf of the Board formally advising them of the action the Board has decided to take.

## **Rochester-Campaspe WSC – leak of confidential information**

The Board noted the circumstances of an apparent leak of confidential information supplied by G-MW to the Rochester-Campaspe WSC. After discussion, the Board agreed to discuss the matter formally with the chair of the WSC.

## **Pyramid-Boort Water Service Committee**

Following more than 12 months of what the Board considered to be dysfunctional and ineffective operations, the Board determined it no longer has confidence in its Pyramid-Boort Water Service Committee's (WSC) ability to fulfill its obligations to irrigators across the region. Accordingly, the Board resolved to suspend the operations of the Pyramid-Boort Water Services Committee and to stand down all Committee members until the Board decides the best course of action.

An interim Customer Reference Group will act in place of the WSC at least until the next annual WSC appointments in June 2010. During this period the Board will make a final decision on the future consultative arrangements for customers in the Pyramid-Boort Irrigation Area and the future role of the WSC.

## **Water Trading Procedures**

The Board confirmed its overall policy with respect to conflicts of interest as –

“It is the responsibility of individual Directors, officers and staff to avoid actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest as this is fundamental to ensuring the highest levels of integrity and public trust.”

and then approved a new water trading notification procedure for Directors and staff of G-MW. The Board also adopted a black out period for water trading by Directors of one week following the release of sensitive water information to the Board (or individually to Directors) or when such information is released to the general public, whichever is the shorter period.

David Stewart  
Managing Director

Russell Barnier  
Corporate Secretary

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