



**Summary of
Board meeting 186
Wednesday 8 September, 2010
Tatura**

Stephen Mills
Chairman

Craig Cook
Deputy Chairman

John Brooke OAM
Director

Claire Penniceard
Director

Des Powell
Director
(Apology)

Catherine Scott
Director

Suzanna Sheed
Director

David Stewart
Managing Director

Inquiries to:
Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary
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Opening

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, noting that the Minister for Water would attend for a brief visit with the Board in the afternoon.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke to his report and raised the following in discussion –

- Neil Beattie, the Chair of the Pyramid-Boort Customer reference Group has retired from that position due to ill health. The Board wished him well and thanked him for his guidance and leadership during the formative period of the group
- The VicWater annual conference was the best for some time, having a broader subject base that included several specialist sessions on governance. The Board is keen to write in support of continuing this format into next year's conference
- The presentation by the chair of the ESC will be circulated to Directors. The major points raised include the necessity of water corporations to create customer consultation opportunities, customer satisfaction and the creation of value; that ESC will not allow prices to include non legislated items and in assessing performance, ESC will consider the efficiency (and cost effectiveness) of water corporations.

Modernisation

G-MW has co-located management with NVIRP to further the relationship and established a high level integrated management team with G-MW / NVIRP / Rubicon to seek best outcomes for the modernisation program.

Pricing & Tariff Review

The first draft of an Issues Paper has been prepared and forwarded to Directors for comment, after which DSE input would then be sought. The view was expressed that the paper was a good start to a substantial piece of work.

G-MW Business Model

The Modernised Irrigation Business has been established and has commenced operating as a separate business at 39 Casey Street Tatura.

The new telephony system on a single incoming line is 90% completed for start up in November.

The new customer charter incorporating service standards has been drafted.

Staff Member Awarded

The Board congratulated G-MW employee Andrew Cooper on being awarded the “Young Victorian Water Operator of the Year”, presented by the Institute of Water Administration. Andrew was recognised for his role in delivering more than 175,000 ML of water across the Central Goulburn Irrigation Area during extremely difficult seasonal conditions.

Flood Update

The Board received an update on the flood situation from the Acting General Manager Water Services. The following was noted –

- Recent rainfalls have exceeded 150mm in the higher regions, with over 200mm at Mt Buffalo
- During this period G-MW has followed its standard operating procedures, which includes the provision of information and advice to agencies, such as those which issue flood warnings and provide emergency services
- The rain event was predicted several days in advance by the Department of Meteorology and peak flows should occur during the day
- Eildon is now 54% full

UNESCO International Workshop

The Board approved Dr Mark Bailey attending the UNESCO International Workshop on Challenges and Solutions for Dam Re-operation in Paris from 25-28 October 2010. Attendance at the workshop is fully funded by UNESCO.

Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy Update

The Board noted the status of actions which G-MW is involved in for the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

Governance Report

The report was considered, with the Board approving the appointment of Sue Bennett as Chair of the Pyramid-Boort Customer Reference Group and Paul Gill as Deputy Chair, following the resignation through ill health of Neill Beattie.

Water Services Committee Report

The report was taken as read, with the Board reiterating its decision to maintain the current positions of chair and deputy chair of WSC's during the implementation of the G-MW business model and the conduct of the current pricing review.

David Stewart
Managing Director
10 September, 2010
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Russell Barnier
Corporate Secretary