



**Summary of  
Board meeting 198  
Monday 5 September, 2011  
Tatura**

Llew Vale OAM  
Chairman

Jenny Dawson  
Director

Ian Mansbridge  
Director

Dennis Moon  
Director

Neil Pankhurst  
Director

Sarah Scales  
Director

Frank Whitford  
Director

Gavin Hanlon  
Managing Director

Inquiries to:  
Russell Barnier  
Corporate Secretary  
[russellb@g-mwater.com.au](mailto:russellb@g-mwater.com.au)

### **Opening and Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Directors, the new Managing Director, Gavin Hanlon, and management to the meeting. Noting the organisation has now filled the key vacancies the Board is looking forward to taking the organisation forward.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Director Pankhurst, as Mayor of Campaspe Shire, declared a potential conflict of interest in the event commentary on the NVIRP/G-MW Board Coordination Committee minutes included a discussion on G-MW road assets.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman indicated to the directors the range of subjects that was covered in a recent meeting with the Minister for Water that he attended with the Managing Director. Topics included -

- Progress on discussion for finalising NVIRP stage 2.
- That the Essential Services Commission will be the designated agent of Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for the purpose of developing the next water plan.
- The clear desire to make pricing simpler and to provide more certainty to customers.
- The importance of the Environmental Water Holder paying its way with regard to services provided by G-MW
- The Managing Director's participation in the next MDBA consultative committee meeting on 23 September 2011.

## **Acting Managing Director's Report**

The Acting Managing Director's report was spoken to by the Chief Operating Officer Ian Moorhouse who acted in the position of Managing Director prior to the arrival on 29 August of the new Managing Director, Gavin Hanlon.

- Because of recent rain events and moisture retention in soils there was still little demand from G-MW customers for irrigation water although demand was expected to increase as little rain was forecast in the near future.
- The Risk workshop for directors and senior management is proposed for 19 September 2011
- Results of a review into the Natural Carrier Rebate will be brought to Board when completed, together with a recommendation from management.

## **Woorinen Pricing Issues**

The Board discussed a paper prepared by management on two options for absorbing the unpaid capital costs and service fees associated with the outcome of recent legal action. As the liability has been added to the total debt of the organisation and is to be repaid when the organisation returns to positive cash flow, it was agreed that the organisation would actively pursue options for encouraging uptake of the spare capacity in the system with key stakeholders. The Chairman has sent a letter to Woorinen customers explaining the outcome.

## **Governance Report**

The Governance Report was noted, with the directors discussing the following -

- WSC Chairs have been appointed for a one year period with the board endorsing the recommendations of the committees.
- The board noted an invitation from the Torrumbarry WSC committee to tour the area and be briefed on local key initiatives. The board agreed to schedule a series of board meetings and tours outside Tatura in the near future once key strategic priorities had been addressed.
- The Board calendar with Board and proposed Committee dates was noted

## **G-MW Public Meeting**

The Board considered the paper relating to a proposed public meeting of the G-MW Board which is a requirement of the Water Corporations Code of Practice adopted in December last year. The Board approved the recommendation to hold the meeting in Tatura in the week commencing 24 October 2011.

## **Statement of Obligations**

The Statement of Obligations is the Minister's mechanism for clarifying expectations of the water corporations. All water corporations were recently asked to comment on a number of proposed amendments that sought to further clarify a number of items. The Board noted the importance of aligning the organisation's performance reporting mechanisms with the Statement of Obligations and ensuring that they are reported regularly to the board.

## **Board Committee Minutes**

The Board noted and discussed the draft minutes of

- Audit Committee of 9 August 2011
- Risk and Compliance Committee of 15 August 2011
- Coordination Committee of 8 August 2011

## **Water Plan 3 Update**

The directors noted an update on progress in developing the next Water Plan. Key items noted were:

- The plan will be guided by the outcomes of the strategy workshop of the board to be held in October.
- Service standards are being reviewed as part of a review of the customer service charter.
- A draft consultation strategy is being prepared which will enable a dedicated mechanism for ensuring water service committees and customers guide the development of the plan.
- An internal review of operations is underway through the business planning process.

## **Finance Report**

The Board noted that G-MW's financial statements for 2010/11 have been completed, following adoption of the infrastructure asset revaluation recently undertaken by the Valuer-General.

## **Reports for Noting**

The Board noted the following reports –

- Wholesale Water Business Performance Report
- Retail Water Business Performance Report
- Water Services Committee Report
- Human Resources Report

## **General Business**

Issues for customers using Lake Meran will be investigated by the Managing Director and a report back provided to the next meeting of the Board.

Gavin Hanlon  
Managing Director  
8 September, 2011

Russell Barnier  
Corporate Secretary

Ref: #3262158V2