



SUMMARY OF THE ORDINARY BOARD MEETING #OM5:11/12 for GWMWater held Wednesday, 9 November 2011

The Board of Directors approved and/or discussed the following matters.

Decision Papers

1. The Managing Director provided a report on a range of operational matters.
2. The Board endorsed the recent review of Water Restrictions and Permanent Water Savings Rules (PWSR) in Victoria developed through the Victorian Water Industry Association. Consultation on the proposed changes to the PWSR is under way. GWMWater will accept submissions on the proposed changes until 17 November 2011 prior to forwarding to the Department of Sustainability and Environment for consideration.
3. The governance model for the future strategic and operational oversight of the Wimmera-Glenelg Bulk Entitlements was endorsed by the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding to be recommended to all signatories.
4. The Board adopted a Third Party Access Policy. Under this policy buyers of growth water are able to submit proposals to move water within the rural pipeline network where spare capacity can be made available. The policy provides for GWMWater to consider proposals on a case-by-case basis.
5. Revised versions of policies for External Members on Board Committees; Treatment of Channel Easements after Construction of the WMPP; and Creation and Disposal of Channel Easements, Reserves and Freehold Land, were adopted.
6. The Board endorsed the Draft Victorian Mallee Irrigation Region Development Guidelines as reviewed and updated by the Mallee Catchment Management Authority.
7. GWMWater has been trialing a filtration unit in Manangatang since June 2011. It has been agreed to purchase and relocate the unit to Quambatook where this particular unit would be better equipped to meet demand and once a final water quality solution has been implemented at Manangatang.
8. The Board considered details on proposed Bulk Entitlements for the Buangor, Elmhurst and Willaura water supply systems and will receive a further report at a subsequent meeting.

9. The Board accepted the nominations of Jon Wykes and Maurie Williams to become members of the GWMWater Pricing and Tariff Working Group, representing the Regional Recreational Water Users Group.

Discussion Papers

10. An update on current activities relating to the development of the 2013-18 Water Plan was provided.
11. The Board commenced discussions on its review of the future strategic directions for the organisation. It is proposed that a Board Strategic Planning Workshop will be held in March 2012.
12. An overview was provided on the new Trade Waste Customer Service Code issued by the Essential Services Commission. Consultation will commence with stakeholders in relation to any impacts arising from the introduction of the Code.
13. An update on planning and actions undertaken to address water quality issues that have arisen from the high turbidity levels in Lake Bellfield since the January 2011 flood.
14. GWMWater has confirmed its support of the proposed amendments to the Water Industry Regulatory Order proposed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
15. A consultation process to address proposed amendments to our existing 'Supply to Lands from the WMPP' policy was foreshadowed. The proposed amendments are considered to reflect the intended outcomes from the Wimmera Mallee pipeline from a physical supply and environmental protection perspective.

General Business

16. The Board discussed the latest proposal for the sale of Wimmera irrigation system water entitlements to the Commonwealth, following a meeting that was held in Canberra with Commonwealth and Wimmera irrigator representatives on 7 October 2011.
17. The process and timeframes for selling pipeline growth water was discussed.
18. The Board endorsed the reappointment of external member, Rex Carland to its Audit, Governance and Risk Committee for a further 12 month period.
19. Implementation of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy is to commence as detailed in the Strategy endorsed by the Board at its meeting on 1 June 2011 and presented to the Victorian Government.
20. A trial will commence in December 2011 to deliver improved water quality to Wimmera Mallee Pipeline customers that will involve the transfer of water from Rocklands Reservoir to Taylors Lake. During the trial, a one-off 'top up' supply of water will be provided to Green Lake this year to maintain lake levels over summer.
21. An annual research forum is to be held in conjunction with the University of Ballarat on Tuesday 29 November 2011.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 7 December 2011.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a summary of record of the Ordinary Board Meeting held 9 November 2011 provided for information only as meeting minutes will not be confirmed until the December 2011 meeting.