

# BOARD BULLETIN

A report of matters associated with Southern Rural Water's board meeting held by video conference on Tuesday 31st March 2020.

Excellence in rural water management, driving growth and customer productivity in southern Victoria.



## Present:

Ms Diane James AM	Chairman
Mr Michael Malouf AM	Deputy Chairman
Ms Naomi Cleary	Director
Mr Christopher Edwards	Director
Ms Peta Maddy	Director
Ms Michelle Murray	Director
Ms Kylie Steel	Director
Mr Cameron FitzGerald	Managing Director



## Management:

Mr Stuart Wigglesworth	Chief Financial Officer & Corporation Secretary
Ms Renae Cooke	Executive Assistant to the Managing Director



## Apologies

Mr Angus Hume	Director
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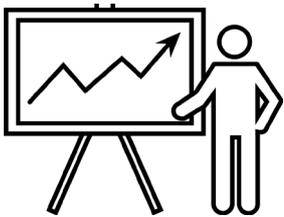
## OUR MEETING

### Strategy workshop

The SRW board met virtually via videoconferencing for its April meeting. The meeting focussed predominantly on SRW's response measures to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) recently announced by state and federal governments.

The board was pleased with the leadership SRW had shown in responding to these issues, particularly the timely implementation of working from home arrangements for all staff, while continuing to deliver water services without disruption.

The board reaffirmed its commitment to being an exemplar of implementation of government requirements and thank SRW staff for the positive approach shown to implementing new ways of working



## OUR OUTCOMES

### COVID-19 response

The board received a comprehensive presentation from the Managing Director on response measures taken by the business. The presentation outlined the objectives that SRW has set in managing this issue, in particular:

- Employee safety will not be compromised.
- We will not contribute to the spread of coronavirus to ourselves, our customers and the community.
- We deliver our essential services and build in capacity to adapt to changing circumstances so that:
  - We reliably provide water to ensure food security, electricity production and urban supplies.
  - Dam safety is not compromised.
  - We are prepared to respond to other incidents that may emerge, including flood, bushfire or terrorism.
- We are connected and we are productive given the circumstances.
- We support the wellbeing of our people by considering the mental health, carer responsibilities and individual circumstances (including financial) of this situation on our people in every decision we make.
- We will operate in a manner that is financially sustainable.

- We always follow guidance issued by health authorities and encourage our people and customers to only source information from official sources.

The Managing Director also provided an operational update outlining that:

- Water is being delivered, with all orders being met.
- All office staff are working from home. Field based staff are starting and finishing from home while implementing social distancing measures if approached.
- Customer service is being provided by phone and web services with face to face customer service centres closed.
- Essential maintenance and capital works are continuing, with new safety procedures in place to ensure COVID-19 response requirements are being followed.

A number of significant matters were considered by the board including financial and risk implications of SRW's COVID response. The Chief Financial Officer outlined several scenarios modelled to provide a high level financial impact assessment from COVID-19. The board requested further scenario analysis be provided at its next meeting to ensure SRW is well prepared for further potential changes to our operating context.

The board emphasised to management that staff safety must continue to be highlighted throughout the business. The disruption of usual operations due to the pandemic, and the associated impact on working conditions for SRW staff and contractors requires ongoing vigilance to ensure that our workplace remains safe.

A range of actions have been and will continue to be implemented to ensure SRW plays its role during this pandemic. The board was pleased with progress and expressed its support for SRW staff as they work in new ways.

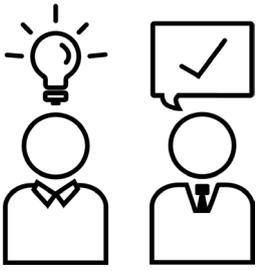


## BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

### Customer value

#### Modern assets

The board, on the recommendation of the Asset Governance Committee approved a variation to the 2019-20 capital budget by \$1.3m to commence works on the MID Phase 2 noting that the works are intended to ensure that the project is not delayed prior to finalising a funding agreement; and that DELWP has made a payment of \$1.3m to SRW to fund these works.



## LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE

### Safe, healthy, diverse and caring workplace

#### Workplace Manslaughter

The board discussed the impact of new Workplace Manslaughter laws on SRW and endorsed management's continued commitment to comply with all OHS legislation.

The discussion focussed on the importance of managing to the highest standards of safety and the emphasis on reporting, and acting upon, hazards and near miss events.

OHS compliance is a must, and the board expressed their appreciation of management's heavy focus on employee and contractor safety.

