

# BOARD BULLETIN

A report of matters associated with Southern Rural Water's board meeting by video conference on Wednesday 2 December 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 Wrigglesworth	Chief Financial Officer & Corporation Secretary
Ms Renae Cooke	Executive Assistant to the Managing Director

## For part of meeting:

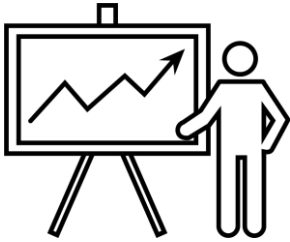
Mr Craig Parker	General Manager Service Delivery
Ms. Isabel Frederick	General Manager Customer and Technology
Ms. Elisa Hunter	General Manager Strategy and Performance





## OUR MEETING

The SRW board met via videoconference for its December meeting in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Significant issues discussed at the meeting included a discussion on future opportunities to enhance SRW's delivery of services to the Werribee Irrigation District, planning for a COVID-normal return to office spaces and approvals for upgrades of the Merrimu and Rosslynne Dam outlet towers.



## OUR OUTCOMES

The board continues to focus on the safety of staff, contractors and the general public and was pleased to approve a total of \$1.94m in spending to upgrade the Merrimu and Rosslynne Dam outlet towers with a focus on improved worker safety. Currently access to the 30m deep towers occurs via a series of ladders and platforms and requires extensive use of personal protective equipment to ensure worker safety. A design review identified that safety could be enhanced by constructing a lift at each site, enhancing access and improving the ability to retrieve a worker should an incident occur while inside the towers. A design and construct tender will now be drafted for release to market in early 2021.



## OUR ASPIRATIONS

### Our People

The board discussed SRW's COVID-19 return to work roadmap, which outlined how we plan to transition our currently home-based workers back into offices while taking advantage of the lessons learned from our COVID-19 response.

The return to work roadmap has been linked closely to the state government's five-step process for recovery and includes a business as new framework which is aligned to our corporate strategy. It seeks to create workplaces that, upon return, are connected, inclusive and collaborative by:

- Inspiring people to work as one to deliver results.
- Creating spaces to facilitate productivity and a sense of one, irrespective of where people work.
- Providing and tools to foster connection and productivity across SRW.

The board highlighted the important role our staff play in stimulating local economies through attendance at offices and encouraged management to incorporate this matter into its plans. The board also reiterated its expectation that SRW continues to follow all government requirements for COVID-19 response.

The board agreed that its next meeting would be scheduled as a face-to-face meeting in Geelong on 2 February 2021.

### Excellence

The board discussed SRW's progress on engaging with Aboriginal groups across our region to achieve Aboriginal inclusion, participation, engagement, employment and economic outcomes in our area. A highlight was the recent announcement by the Minister for Water regarding the allocation of 2GL of water entitlements from the Mitchell River the Gunaikurnai as a part of a package that has also seen 4GL of water entitlements made available for production in two tranches, the first of which is currently the subject of a request for expressions of interest from local irrigators.





### **Great Partner**

The board discussed the future of the Werribee Irrigation District with a focus on addressing customer feedback on the quality and reliability of water supply to the district. The meeting considered the development of an option for enhanced access to recycled water that has been discussed at the Werribee Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum (a partnership consisting of SRW, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne Water, City West Water, Western Water and local councils).

The board supported the collaborative approach SRW is implementing to enhance water security for the Werribee Irrigation District highlighting the importance of keeping our customers' requirements central to any proposals developed or supported by SRW.

It was agreed that we will:

- Continue to work closely with our partners through Werribee Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum to develop these options further.
- Continue discussions with our customers on their aspirations for the future of the district.

