

BOARD BULLETIN

A report of matters associated with Southern Rural Water's board meeting held in Geelong on Tuesday 2 February 2021.

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



Present:

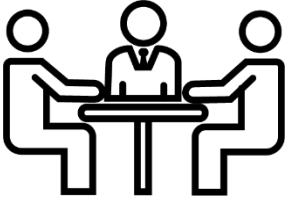
Ms Diane James AM	Chairman
Mr Michael Malouf AM	Deputy Chairman
Ms Naomi Cleary	Director
Mr Christopher Edwards	Director
Ms Peta Maddy	Director
Ms Michelle Murray	Director
Ms Kylie Steel	Director
Mr Cameron FitzGerald	Managing Director

Management:

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

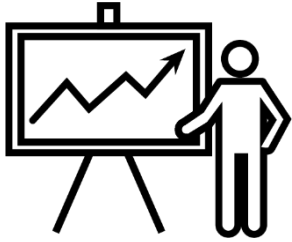
For part of meeting:

Ms. Elisa Hunter	General Manager Strategy and Performance
Mr Simon Wilkinson	Acting General Manager Assets and Environment



OUR MEETING

The SRW board met in Geelong, for our first in-person meeting since February 2020. All directors welcomed the opportunity to meet face to face again after a long period of virtual meetings.



OUR OUTCOMES

This meeting discussed opportunities to enhance the operations of SRW's irrigation districts consistent with our vision of great value for customers and community through excellence in rural water management. A particular highlight was the approval of a revised business case that will support a funding submission to the Federal Government for the final stage of modernisation of the Werribee Irrigation District modernisation. The request will seek 50% funding from the National Water Grid Authority.



OUR ASPIRATIONS

Our Customers

The board discussed opportunities to enhance SRW's relationships with our Werribee Irrigation District customers and welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with local irrigators through an emerging grower co-operative which is seeking opportunities to ensure a strong future for the district. The board supported a collaborative approach to pursuing these options.



Excellence

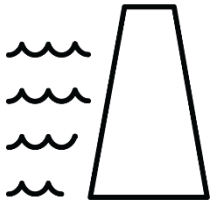
The board discussed a strategic planning exercise that considers the future of the Macalister Irrigation District. This assessment included consideration of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Macalister Irrigation District and highlighted the importance of maximising the benefits of the now fully funded modernisation program. To address this, SRW has developed concept under the working title *Macalister Fresh*.

The concept sets out four focus areas:

- **More water** – Successfully completing modernisation in a manner that maximises water security is a critical immediate focus.
- **Best practice and innovation** – The best outcomes for the MID will be achieved where our modernisation investment is matched by adoption of water efficiency best practices on-farm. We have a proud history in this space including through supporting farm irrigation planning, reuse systems and flood to spray irrigation conversions.
- **Great partnerships** – To be successful SRW will need to work closely with a range of partners including our customers, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, AgVic, Customer advocacy groups (for example Gippsland Food and Fibre and GippsDairy), Wellington Shire, Traditional Owners and local research institutions such as Federation University.

We see our work on Macalister Fresh as an opportunity to open a wider conversation with partners about the future of the district and will seek their support for the concept over coming months.

- **Telling the story** – The MID is a hidden gem. The investment proposition is strong, yet the opportunity for investment is not widely known. An opportunity exists to support expanded investment in the MID by telling the story of the opportunities that the district offers more widely.



OUR FOUNDATIONS

The board also considered:

- Our quarterly strategy report which highlighted pleasing results on our most recent safety culture survey, reporting an improvement in our Global Safety Index rating from “maturing” to “sustainable.”
- The timetable for the development of SRW’s 2021-22 Corporate Plan, which will be the first implemented under SRW’s new corporate strategy.
- Progress being made on SRW’s asset management improvement program, including the development of a financial model to assess our long run capacity to fund asset improvements.
- SRW’s approach to regulating privately owned dams in light of a recent leak that occurred at a privately owned dam in Torquay.
- Return to office plans following the announcement by the state government of relaxations in COVID-19 restriction levels.

