

BOARD BULLETIN

A report of matters associated with Southern Rural Water's board meeting virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 1 June 2021.

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



Present:

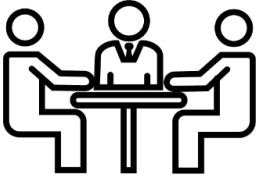
Ms Diane James AM	Chairman
Mr Michael Malouf AM	Deputy Chairman
Ms Naomi Cleary	Director
Mr Christopher Edwards	Director (until 3.42pm)
Ms Peta Maddy	Director
Ms Michelle McCrum	Director
Ms Kylie Steel	Director
Mr Cameron FitzGerald	Managing Director

Management:

Ms Melissa Jeal	Corporation Secretary
Ms Renae Cooke	Executive Assistant to the Managing Director

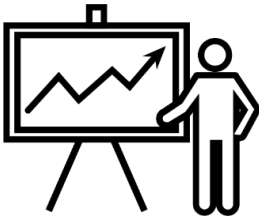
For part of meeting:

Mr. Hugh Christie	General Manager Service Delivery
Mr Stuart Wrigglesworth	Chief Financial Officer
Ms Elisa Hunter	General Manager Strategy and Performance



OUR MEETING

Due to the snap Victoria-wide COVID-19 lockdown, the June 2021 meeting of the SRW board was held via videoconference. We look forward to meeting face-to-face again in Maffra in August 2021.



OUR OUTCOMES

The board welcomed the high commendation awarded to SRW in the Customer Experience category at the recently held Australian Water Association Awards. All agreed that this was a fitting acknowledgement of the energy and effort that SRW has put into ensuring our customers needs are at the forefront of our decision making, and in particular how this has translated into outstanding outcomes from the MID modernisation program.

The board also welcomed the recent federal government funding announcement of an \$11m contribution for the completion of the modernisation program for the Werribee Irrigation District.



OUR ASPIRATIONS

The board was pleased to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Food and Fibre Great South Coast (FFGSC). FFGSC is a representative body for the food and fibre industry in South West Victoria, with membership including producers, industry groups and local government. SRW is a member of the FFGSC's Realising the Water Opportunity working group, which is implementing a collaborative approach to water issues in the region.

This MoU represents a commitment to effective and meaningful engagement with our customers in South West Victoria.

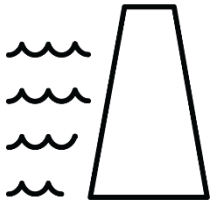
The board also discussed opportunities to enhance engagement with our customers in the Werribee Irrigation District. It was agreed that SRW would continue to engage widely with WID customers to explore opportunities to support the long term sustainability of the district and opportunities for expansion. This includes entering into a MoU with a recently formed growers cooperative.

The Managing Director provided an update on the recent Mitchell River winterfill water auction, which made almost 2,000ML of water available to customers in this catchment.

A report on the strategic outlook for SRW's Groundwater and Rivers business was also provided, highlighting strategic focus areas for SRW over the next 12 months, including.

- support for increased access to water for irrigators via the Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy.
- encouraging a flexible trading market with a focus on reduction of sleeper licences.
- providing more real time information for customers on water usage following the integration of meter reading data with mySRW portal to improve decision making.
- undertaking more detailed water resource assessment across our systems.

It was agreed that these focus areas would be discussed further with the Southern Groundwaters and Rivers Forum to seek feedback and gauge customer support.



OUR FOUNDATIONS

The board also approved:

- amendments to SRW's capital program to accommodate the detailed design and valve purchase for the replacement of the Blue Rock low level isolating valve and the detailed design for the replacement of the Main Southern Channel Siphon No.2 in the Macalister Irrigation District.
- SRW's annual risk review and a suite of policies covering financial governance, the approach SRW takes to engaging with Traditional Owner groups and circumstances where licence fees may be waived for access to water associated with a public good.

