

# BOARD BULLETIN

A report of matters associated with Southern Rural Water's board meeting virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 3 August 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 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 Stuart Wrigglesworth	Chief Financial Officer
Ms Elisa Hunter	General Manager Strategy and Performance
Ms Joanna Giannini	General Manager People Safety and Culture
Mr Scott Cornish	General Manager Asset Futures

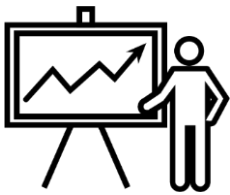




## OUR MEETING

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, the August 2021 meeting of the SRW board was held via videoconference. We look forward to meeting face-to-face again in Werribee in September 2021.

The board welcomed Scott Cornish, General Manager Asset Futures, to his first board meeting at SRW. Scott comes to SRW from Western Water, with 19 years' experience as a Civil Engineer, both locally and internationally.



## STRATEGY REPORT

The board was pleased to receive the quarterly strategy report which reported progress in achieving our vision of great value for customers and community through excellence in rural water management. This included a report on:

### **Completion of MID modernisation Phase 1B**

SRW has completed MID Phase 1B which enables the Southern Tinamba supply zone to operate at its optimum potential. It delivers:

- more efficient on-farm irrigation, saving farmers time and improving water delivery.
- increased capacity to improve productivity across the district.
- a saving of an estimated 10 gigalitres (GL) of water through reducing losses.
- reduced outfall to the drain systems, which will also mean fewer nutrients entering waterways and the Gippsland Lakes.

### **Archaeological finds in MID**

Recent surveys in the MID have uncovered a number of archaeological finds. These discoveries are important to the Gunaikurnai as they help to improve their understanding of their ancestral activities in the region. SRW is working closely with the Traditional Owners to repatriate the finds to a site at Lake Glenmaggie which will provide an opportunity for visitors to understand the deep history and connection that Traditional Owners share with the land in the MID.

### **Flood Management**

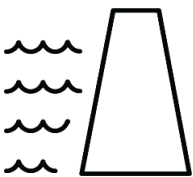
The recent floods across Gippsland required SRW to implement its Corporate Incident Management Plan. SRW received positive feedback from the SES regional controller for the way we operated and how we interacted with other agencies through this complex incident.

## Sustainable Victorian Irrigation Development (SVID) Project

SRW has completed the pre-feasibility phase of this project. Building on these outcomes, we have secured additional \$of state government funding to undertake further investigations on two separate irrigation development projects – the Avon Irrigation Development Project (AID) and the Latrobe Irrigation Development Project (LID).

## Werribee Modernisation Funding

SRW successfully secured \$11m from the Commonwealth Government for the WID. This will help us to complete the modernisation program, enabling us to deliver a more reliable service to our customers with additional water savings providing scope for further expansion.



## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The Managing Director provided an update on several matters:

- **Torquay dam:** An independent panel has been appointed to consider the licensing of a private dam located in Torquay that was the subject of an evacuation of local residents in October 2020. Submissions from stakeholders and the general public have been received. A public hearing is scheduled to take place on Monday 23 August, 2021.
- **Water opportunities in the Great South Coast:** During June, SRW attended a Sustainable Water Roundtable to consider the unique water priorities and opportunities of the Great South Coast region. The session focused on underutilised and available groundwater and surface water in the south coast region and discussed opportunities to pursue sustainable growth for the local economy. The session was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Harriet Shing, along with key leaders from across the Great South Coast.
- **Opening allocations:** After a wet winter, opening allocations are strong with the Macalister Irrigation District at 100% of high reliability water shares, and Werribee and Bacchus Marsh Irrigation Districts at 95% high reliability water shares.
- **Maffra Weir project:** The Maffra Weir project is on schedule to reach practical completion before the beginning of the upcoming irrigation season. The original bridge and operating gear have been removed from site and a replacement bridge and gate lifting gear have been installed.
- **AquaEx – Cyber Security exercise:** SRW is registered to participate in AquaEx, a national water sector cyber security exercise hosted by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). The exercise, to be held on 18 August 2021, will test SRW’s Operational Technology and Information Technology readiness to a cyber threat. Key systems, including SRW’s Business Continuity Plan and Cyber Security Management Plan, will be tested.



## OTHER MATTERS

The board also considered the following matters:

- SRW's approach to negotiating its next Enterprise Agreement with staff which is due to be completed in March 2022.
- Annual financial statements were discussed with a focus on how SRW ensures it remains financially sustainable in the long term.
- Minutes from the Werribee and Bacchus Marsh Customer Consultative Committee and the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum were discussed. The board highlighted the importance of customer engagement in upcoming price submission deliberations.

