

SGRF AGENDA

Meeting no. 48

10.00am, Friday 17 March 2023
VicWater, Melbourne

*'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting.
We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities
who may be here today.'*



**Southern
Rural Water**

Managing Water. Serving Communities.

Our Vision

Great value for customers and community through excellence in rural water management



Our Trademark Behaviours

- Always Safe
- United
- Customer First
- Ambitious
- Results Driven
- Innovative
- Respectful

Southern Rural Water's Groundwater and Rivers Strategic Focus Areas

June 2022 – June 2023

There are five strategic focus areas for SRW in the Groundwater and Rivers area over the next 12 months:

1. Continued advocacy for sustainable access to water for irrigators via the implementation of GM2030, policy reforms in surface water management and key stakeholder groups.
2. Continue to encourage a flexible trading market through improved internal procedures and Government policies.
3. Provide more real time information for customers on water usage following the integration of meter reading data with mySRW portal to improve decision making.
4. Undertake more detailed water resource assessment across our systems through investment of unregulated water sales funds and the continuation of the Supply/Demand projects.
5. Understanding the implications of rapidly evolving cultural water policy on customer aspirations for improved access to water.

An update on what SRW is doing in relation to these focus areas is provided in the Manager Groundwater and Rivers Update at each meeting.

Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum

Meeting 48

Date	Time	Location
17 March 2023	10am	VicWater - Melbourne

Topic			
1		Acknowledgement of County	Chair
2		Welcome and Apologies	Chair
3		Declaration of conflicts of interest	All
4		Confirmation of minutes – Meeting 47	Chair
	4.1	Attachment – Draft Minutes SGRF Meeting 47, 2 December 2022	
5		Business Arising	Chair
	5.1	Attachment - Business arising from previous meetings	
6		<u>GUEST SPEAKERS</u>	
	6.1	GW2030	DEECA
	6.2	Water is Life	DEECA
7		<u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR NOTING</u>	
	7.1	Communications Report	
	7.2	Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy	Cameron FitzGerald
8		<u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR DISCUSSION</u>	
	8.1	Board update	Jane Doolan
	8.2	Manager Groundwater and Rivers Update	Bryce Morden
9		<u>COMMITTEE MATTERS</u>	
	9.1	Important issues from other customer committees	Cameron FitzGerald
	9.2	Matters referred by/to the Board/board committee	Cameron FitzGerald

10	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>	All
11	Meeting evaluation	Chair
12	Next meeting	
13	Close	

Item No: 1

Subject: **Acknowledgement of Country**

'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.'

Item No: 2

Subject: **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair will welcome attendees and note any apologies for this meeting.

Item No: 3

Subject: **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair will ask forum members to declare any conflicts of interest relating to the business of this meeting.

Item No: 4
Subject: Confirmation of minutes – Meeting 47
Action: For approval
Author: Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant
Date: 8/03/2023

PURPOSE

1. To ensure that the minutes taken of committee meeting 47 are an accurate and sufficient record of discussions held and decisions made at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee approves the minutes of meeting 47 held on Friday 2 December 2022.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

2. Minutes are confirmed at each committee meeting.

BACKGROUND

3. Draft minutes are circulated after each committee meeting. Any suggested changes are captured as track changes, for consideration and confirmation at the following meeting.

REPORT

4. Draft minutes of meeting 47, held via video conference on Friday 2 December 2022 are provided in attachment 4.1.
5. **Budget impact:** Nil
6. **Link to strategy:** Nil.
7. **Risk:** Committee meeting minutes are a public record and may be subject to release under Freedom of Information. Directors should ensure that minutes accurately and appropriately reflect the discussion and decisions of the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Who	Action
Meeting Secretary	Once confirmed, a hard copy of the minutes will be signed by the committee Chairman and saved on the board portal and Southern Rural Water Website.

**GIPPSLAND AND SOUTHERN RURAL WATER CORPORATION
SOUTHERN GROUNDWATER and RIVERS FORUM**

MINUTES of MEETING 47

Held 10.30am, Friday 2 December 2022

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Mr Ross Ingram	Chair
Ms Josie Zilm	Forum member, Deputy Chair
Mr Daniel Hammond	Forum member
Mr Stephen Marshall	Forum member
Mr Matt Gleeson	Forum member
Mr Damian Moore	Forum member
Mr Kevin Stark	Forum member
Mr Norm Drew	Forum member
Mr Daniel Toohey	Forum member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Jane Doolan	Board Director, SRW
Mr Cameron FitzGerald	Managing Director, SRW
Mr Simon Wilkinson	General Manager Service Delivery, SRW
Mr Bryce Morden	Manger Groundwater and Rivers, SRW
Ms Hayley Taylor	Executive Assistant, SRW (Scribe)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Bruce Vallance	Forum member
Mr Tom Wallace	Forum member

GUESTS:

Anthony Goode	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Shayne Haywood	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Christine Reid	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Chris Solum	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Sarah Killury	Agriculture Victoria
Omi Koulas	Consultant - Struber
Bill Hansen	Consultant - Struber
Matt Hudson	Principle Hydrogeologist

Due to the Customer Engagement Review Workshop, agenda items were not discussed in order.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held.

2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

The Chair **noted** the apologies and acknowledged that a few members were running late.

Dr Doolan advised that she would need to leave the meeting at 12pm.

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked attendees to declare any conflicts of interest relating to the business of this meeting.

There were no new conflicts raised.

4 CONFIRMATION MINUTES

The minutes No. 46 held on 2 September 2022 were **approved**.

Moved: Josie Zilm

Seconded: Ross Ingram

5 BUSINESS ARISING

The report was taken as read.

Mr Ingram stated he was happy with the way minutes have been distributed.

6 GUEST SPEAKERS

6.1 Irrigation Development Guideline

Mr Anthony Goode, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) provided an overview of the Irrigation Development Guidelines for Gippsland and the Southwest.

The following points were highlighted within the Gippsland Irrigation Development Guidelines (IDGs) presentation:

- Historical and inefficient practices can be detrimental to the environment and long-term viability of the agriculture sector.
- The guidelines are one part of a suite of measures to promote the efficient use of water in the area.
- The guidelines have been developed to provide guidance to new or expanding irrigation developments and to make the application process as efficient, consistent and transparent as possible for all parties involved.
- The IDGs do not change the requirements placed on developers under the Water Act or any other Act but instead aims to align approval processes.
- Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's) are working to provide consistent irrigation development information across the state.
- The WGCMA has received feedback advising that irrigators do not like when agencies ask for different assessments at different times as this drags out the application process. The WGCMA have been working to implement changes to address these issues within these guidelines to ensure efficiency and transparency from the start.
- The following changes have been as made as a result of the review:
 - New Irrigation Development Working Group has been formed to ensure communication between agencies from the beginning of the process.

- Improved information and clarity for developers which includes factsheets which are regularly updated to ensure up to date relevant information is available.
- Clarity around linkages to other legislation.
- Clarification of complaints and appeals processes.
- Clarification of when the IDG process does not apply
- Updates to ensure consistency with northern and south-west Victoria.
- Next steps:
 - Finalise consultation process (comments close end of 2022)
 - Draft to working group for final review – End of January 2023
 - Commence endorsement process with the aim to have a final document by EOFY 2022/23

Ms Christine Reid, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) advised the committee that:

- GHCMA are replicating the work by WGCMA to ensure consistency across SRW's area.
- There are no declared irrigation districts in the GHCMA area so the IDGs focus on take and use licences rather than water use licences.
- The primary role of the document is for use by agencies and factsheets have been developed for irrigators to provide proponents with information relevant to their needs.
- There is potential to extend the guidelines into the Corangamite CMA to provide consistency across the whole of southwest Victoria.

Mr Stark inquired as to what consideration had been given to applications for water use for plantations in the southwest as historically plantations haven't needed to apply for water like other irrigators. The committee was advised that water intercepted by plantations is not considered as either irrigation or Take and Use and therefore sits outside these guidelines. Mr Stark stated that this not a satisfactory result, and is something for the CMA to consider.

Mr Ingram noted a situation where an agency questioned an application after it was approved and water was being used on a property, highlighting the need for clear processes for applicants and agencies.

The Chair thanked Mr Goode and Ms Reid for attending the meeting.

6.2 Struber – Customer Engagement Reiver

Omi Koulas and Bill Hansen from Struber joined the meeting.

The members were advised Struber will be running a workshop to learn about how SRW engages with customers, specifically about what is and isn't working for the committee.

Members provided feedback which was captured by Struber with their report to be communicated to the next meeting of the SGRF.

Workshop concluded at 12:33pm.

6.3 Source, Demand and Values – Matt Hudson

Matt Hudson, Principal Hydrogeologist joined the meeting at 12:33pm to present on the Source, Demand and Values project.

Mr Hudson provided an overview of the project noting:

- the project's aim is to understand the reliability of water resources within SRW's area.
- Key driver of the project is SRW's climate adaptation plan
- The four components of the project are:
 - Thomson Macalister Climate Source Modelling
 - Climate Change Assessment of river diverter reliability for the whole of SRW's area
 - Hopkins basin detailed assessment
 - Bunyip basin detailed assessment

Mr Hudson detailed how the project analysed the possible impacts of climate change on unregulated surface water noting:

- Changes in how reliable the water supply would be in the future, by defining current reliability and also what bans could look like going forward. Mr Hudson discussed specific examples taken from Avon River monitoring gauges (a reliable system) and monitoring gauges in Moorabool, which is a relatively dry catchment.
- Assessments have identified that customers in some catchments may be restricted by an additional 25-33% by 2070 under the high climate change scenario.

Mr Hudson provided a more detailed overview on the assessments of the Hopkins and Bunyip basins. A copy of these presentations is provided as an attachment 1 to these minutes.

The committee discussed the results of the assessments and advised Mr Hudson that customers will want to understand medium and long term risk in relation to climate change.

The committee **requested** the information is also presented as a 'seasonal scenario', as irrigators would like to know how restrictions would affect irrigators at the time of the year they want to take water.

Mr Hudson advised that the information from these assessments will be shared with customers and stakeholders to understand further work opportunities that can feed into the climate change adaption plan. The committee **requested** that management workshop approaches to disseminate this information to customers and bring back a plan to the next committee meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Hudson for the detailed presentation

Action	Action officer	Due date
Present Source, Demand and Values assessments as 'seasonal scenarios' so irrigators can see how restrictions could affect their water allocations at specific times of the year.	HUDSON	02/03/2023

Management to workshop ways to disseminate the Source, Demand and Values assessments to irrigators and advise the how this will occur at the next meeting.	HUDSON	02/03/2023
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7 **PRINCIPAL MATTERS – for discussion**

7.1 **Board Update**

Dr Doolan advised that the Board had recently met at a strategy workshop and the themes of the workshop were:

- regional development and how SRW can contribute to development in southern Victoria
- Financial sustainability
- Safe culture for staff and customers
- Best practice asset management
- Financial targets as detailed in the Pricing Submission and how they will be met the productivity savings and water sales
- Review how SRW engages with customer – Customer Engagement review
- Building strategic alliances
- Energy transition opportunities

Mr FitzGerald advised the committee that SRW get huge value out of the committee but have been finding it difficult to get new and diverse members, particularly in the irrigation areas.

Mr Drew stated the best advisory committee's have a wide cross section of members.

Dr Doolan left the meeting at 11:35am.

7.2 **Morwell River Diversion**

Mr Bryce Morden, Manager Groundwater and Rivers provided an overview of the diversion on the Morwell River noting,

- The river course has been changed over the years to accommodate coal mining, with some sections of the river now being man made.
- The current issue relates a failure in 2021 of a man made section of the river resulting in the river flooding into an area where coal is currently mined for use in the Yallourn power station.
- The immediate response to the failure was to create a coffer dam near Yallourn with pumps to by-pass the damaged site. Works then commenced to create a rock weir and channels upstream at Hazelwood to divert flood water into the Hazelwood mine void.
- Additional infrastructure was installed at Yallourn which allows water to be diverted into the mines to mitigate floods before returning it to the Morwell River.
- SRW has requested the energy companies advise of proposals for future use of infrastructure, including implications for current water users.

Mr Gleeson advised the committee that flooding has pushed back up the river and has spilled onto farmland. He stated parties involved in works on the Morwell River Diversion need to understand future impacts to farmers when the diversion fails again, and particularly who is responsible when there is no energy generation.

The committee discussed how water diverted into the mine pits can be used to ensure passing flows into the Latrobe River continue. Mr Drew advised the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority are currently undertaking water quality studies of the water in the mine pits.

Mr FitzGerald advised the committee that SRW will keep this information on how new infrastructure is affecting farmers front of mind to ensure SRW are discharging their regulatory duties appropriately.

Ms Zilm left the meeting at 1:17pm

Mr Marshall left the meeting at 1:30pm.

8 **Principal Matters – for noting**

8.1 **Strategic focus and Manager Groundwater and Rivers Update**

The report was taken as read.

8.2 **Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy**

Mr FitzGerald noted that the strategy had been released, and **requested** the presentation is held over to the next meeting.

Action	Action officer	Due date
Present on the Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy at the next SGRF meeting.	FITZGERALD	02/03/2023

8.3 **Water is Life Launch**

This report is to be held over to the next meeting.

Action	Action officer	Due date
Present on the Water is Life Launch at the next SGRF meeting.	FITZGERALD	02/03/2023

9 **COMMITTEE MATTERS**

9.1 **Important issues from other customer committees**

Nil matters to note.

9.2 **Matters referred by/to the Board/board committee**

Nil matters to note.

10 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil matters to note.

10.1 2023 Meeting Schedule

The committee **agreed** on the 2023 meeting schedule with the following amendments:

- One face to face meeting to be held in March 2023.
- Video Conference meetings to commence at 9:30am.

Action	Action officer	Due date
Update the 2023 SGRF meeting schedule to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One face to face meeting to be held in March 2023• Video Conference meetings to commence at 9:30am	TAYLOR	19/12/2022

11 **MEETING EVALUATION**

The Chair sort feedback on the effectiveness of this meeting. The members did not provide any feedback.

12 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum is Friday 2 March and will be held face to face in Melbourne.

13 **CLOSE**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and thanked SRW for the information and support. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

With no further business the meeting was declared closed at 1:41pm.

	March 2020	June 2020	Sept 2020	Dec 2020	March 2021	June 2021	Sept 2021	Dec 2021	March 2022	June 2022	Sept 2022	Dec 2020
Ross Ingram	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tom Wallace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	Apol	Apol
Josie Zilm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓
Daniel Hammond	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bruce Vallance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol
Damian Moore	✓		✓	Apol	✓	✓	Apol	Apol	Apol	Apol	✓	✓
Kevin Stark	Apol	Apol	Apol	Apol	✓	Apol	Apol	Apol	✓	✓	Apol	✓
Matt Gleeson	Apol	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Marshall	Apol	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norm Drew			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓
Daniel Toohey			✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓

- ✓ - Attended Meeting
- Apol - Notification of apology
- Blank - Did not attend

Item No: **5**
Subject: **Business arising from previous meetings**
Action: **For noting**
Author: **Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant**
Date: **8/03/2023**

PURPOSE

1. To allow the forum to assess management progress on items identified for action from Southern Groundwater and River Forum meetings.

RECOMMENDATION: That the forum **notes** the status of business arising action items, including:

- Two action items are complete,
- Three action items will be discussed within this agenda, and
- one action item remains open:
 - Action 24983 – will be discussed at the June 2023 SGRF meeting.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

2. Business arising is considered each meeting.

BACKGROUND

3. Actions are captured in the minutes each month and transposed into risk wizard where base and aspirational dates are added along with the responsibility for completion.

REPORT

4. Attachment 5.1 describes each action item, its status, and a comment on its progress.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - Southern GWR forum

Action progress: Complete

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment	
24984	Management to workshop ways to disseminate the Source, Demand and Values assessments to irrigators and advise the how this will occur at the next meeting.	SGRF meeting 47 - 2 December 2020, Agenda Item 6.3 Source, Demand and Values	02/03/23	10/03/23	Matthew Hudson	The Source Demand Values project outputs will inform the SRW Climate Adaptation Plan. This plan will include the different climate pathways, the risks and opportunities and the potential adaptation interventions that relate to SRW and our customers. It is expected that communication/engagement will occur through the development of the Climate Adaptation Plan. One option could be for SRW to present the Climate Adaptation Plan process to SGRF in future.
24987	Update the 2023 SGRF meeting schedule to reflect: • One face to face meeting to be held in March 2023 • Video Conference meetings to commence at 9:30am	SGRF meeting 47 - 2 December 2020, Agenda Item 10.1 Meeting Schedule	02/03/23	19/01/23	Hayley Taylor	2023 meetings scheduled for March (face to face), June, September and December.

Action progress: This agenda

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment	
24248	Invite a suitable DELWP representative to discuss Traditional Owner water policies, with the intention of a presentation at the March SGRF meeting.	SGRF meeting 39 - 3 December 2020	02/03/23	10/03/23	Bryce Morden	Refer to agenda item: 6.2. A representative from DEECA will attend the meeting to discuss Water is Life. Management note the Board has also requested a suitable person to attend a board meeting to speak about Traditional Owner Water Policies. Management propose the same person is invited to attend an SGRF meeting once they have met with the board. At the June 2021 meeting , the committee noted this item and confirmed that they would value a briefing, but that they don't expect management to organise this by a specific due date. Management will leave this item on the Business Arising Report and once a suitable person is identified and has the capability, management will extend an invitation for them to attend a committee meeting.

24985	Present on the Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy at the next SGRF meeting.	SGRF meeting 47 - 2 December 2020, Agenda Item 8.2 Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy	02/03/23	10/03/23	Cameron FitzGerald	Refer to agenda item 7.2.
24986	Present on the Water is Life Launch at the next SGRF meeting.	SGRF meeting 47 - 2 December 2020, Agenda Item 8.3 Water is Life Launch	02/03/23	10/03/23	Cameron FitzGerald	Refer to agenda item 6.2

Action progress: Overdue

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment
24983	Present Source, Demand and Values assessments as 'seasonal scenarios' so irrigators can see how restrictions could affect their water allocations at specific times of the year.	SGRF meeting 47 - 2 December 2020, Agenda Item 6.3 Source, Demand and Values	02/03/23	Matthew Hudson	To be presented at the June 2023 SGRF meeting I have commissioned some additional work from GHD to present the analysis on a seasonal basis. This should be completed by 2 March, for presenting at a future SGRF.

Item No: **6.1**

Subject: **GW2030**

A representative from DEECA will attend the meeting to discuss the implementation of the GW2030 strategy and seek advice on how to engage with groundwater users into the future.

Item No: **6.2**

Subject: **Water is Life**

A representative from DEECA will attend the meeting to discuss Water is Life.

Item No: **7.1**
Subject: **Communications and Engagement report – March 2022**
Action: **For noting**
Author: **Kris Perkovic, Senior Community Engagement Adviser**
Date: **17/03/2023**

PURPOSE

- To update the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum (SGRF) on recent communications and engagement activities.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee note the report.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

2. Communications and engagement activity is reported at each meeting.

BACKGROUND

3. The Communications and Engagement team develops communications plans, issues media releases, manages the website and social media, customer and community engagement activities and looks after media enquiries.

REPORT

4. News and media

<https://www.srw.com.au/news-media/season-outlook-dry-autumn-ahead>

<https://www.srw.com.au/news-media/how-we-help-people-share-water-fairly>

- Featuring a video with Southern Rural Water's Groundwater and Rivers Manager Bryce Morden

<https://www.srw.com.au/news-media/how-we-balance-water-supply-community-safety>


- Featuring a video with Southern Rural Water's Headworks Operations Manager Ed Smith

5. Social media

Our social media campaigns have received good responses. Below are some examples of content since the last meeting. Please follow our social media pages to see more.

Southern Rural Water
8 February at 16:36


Water is a vital resource we all need to live, work and play. We need water to drink, grow food and fibre, power our energy needs, nourish our natural environment and provide recreational reserves for communities to enjoy. It is a finite resource, and this means we must use it wisely and share it fairly among everyone who needs it. ... See more



Why complying with water regulations matter

Southern Rural Water
15 February at 15:36


We believe the best way to help people share water fairly is to educate them and empower them to do so. Our Field Officer Julie Shaw talks about why monitoring water is important. To read more visit: <https://www.srw.com.au/.../how-we-help-people-share-water...>



Why is monitoring water important?

Southern Rural Water
16 January

Meet Wendy Roy, one of our field officers currently completing summer meter reads across our regions. These reads help our customers understand how much water they've used and how much of their entitlement remains. Once we've collected the data and crunched the numbers, we contact customers who are near their consumption limit so they can manage their water accordingly. These reads play an important role in helping our customers do the right thing and ensuring we manage water resources responsibly and fairly. Learn more about what we do at www.srw.com.au.



Southern Rural Water
7 February at 15:33


Are you interested in learning more about sustainable water in south west Victoria? Our partners **Food & Fibre - Great South Coast** are hosting the Great South Coast Sustainable Water Forum on Wednesday, 15 February at Deakin University, Warrnambool... See more



Great South Coast Sustainable Water Forum
Wednesday 15 February 2023
Deakin University, Warrnambool

Southern Rural Water
12 January

As water managers, we plan for all conditions. However, in wet seasons, our job is to balance holding water for customers and releasing it to ensure we protect our dams and minimise flooding impacts for downstream communities. We can't prevent floods, but we work closely with the **Bureau of Meteorology** and emergency services to help manage them. See how we do this: <http://www.srw.com.au/.../how-we-balance-water-supply...>



Southern Rural Water
22 February at 16:09

Our current water allocations. For our Macalister Irrigation Area customers Low Reliability Water Shares (LRWS) have increased to 20%. The next review will be Tuesday, 7 March. To find out more and to stay updated visit www.srw.com.au

Allocations

- Werrabee (Groundwater)
100% (HRWS)
- Macalister Irrigation Area
HRWS 100% | LRWS 20%
- Bacchus Marsh & Werrabee Irrigation District
HRWS 100% | LRWS 100%

NEXT STEPS: A further update will be provided at the next SGRF meeting.

Item No: **7.2**

Subject: **Public Release of Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy**

Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director, to provide overview of the outcome of the Central Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

Presentation is included as discretionary reading.

Item No: 7.1

Subject: **Board Update**

Jane Doolan, Board member, will provide an overview of discussions at the most recent Board meeting.

Item No: 8.2

Subject: **Strategic Focus and Manager Groundwater and Rivers Update**

Action: **For noting**

Author: **Bryce Morden, Manager Groundwater and Rivers**

Date: **10/03/2023**

Issue	Commentary 2022-23
<p>Strategic focus 1. Continued advocacy for sustainable access to water for irrigators via the implementation of GM2030, policy reforms in surface water management and key stakeholder groups.</p>	<p>SRW participated in Food and Fibre Great South Coast (FFGSC) Sustainable Water Forum in February.</p> <p>SRW engaged with Orbost working group exploring water opportunities to support economic development following cessation of native timber forestry.</p>
<p>Strategic focus 2. Continue to encourage a flexible trading market through improved internal procedures and Government policies.</p>	<p>Development of Irrigation Development Guidelines by CMAs to streamline referral process for new or expanding developments endorsed by SRW Board.</p> <p>Scoping feasibility of water trade platform for groundwater with DEECA.</p> <p>SRW actively involved with <i>Water Register Transform Project</i> including development of webforms for trade applications.</p>
<p>Strategic focus 3. Provide more real time information for customers on water usage following the integration of meter reading data with mySRW portal to improve decision making</p>	<p>No change on mySRW for the period.</p> <p>Taggle receiver installed for Bungaree with very good coverage of region – commencing roll-out of meter tags (transmitters)</p> <p>Two towers will be installed on Gippsland Water sites following new partnership agreement.</p> <p>Work commencing to identify receiver sites in Thorpdale.</p>
<p>Strategic focus 4. Undertake more detailed water resource assessment across our systems through investment of unregulated water sales funds and the continuation of the Supply/Demand projects.</p>	<p>Supply/Demand project outputs have been updated to include seasonal impacts rather than annual impacts.</p>

Issue	Commentary 2022-23
<p>Strategic focus 5.</p> <p>Understanding the implications of rapidly evolving cultural water policy on customer aspirations for improved access to water.</p>	<p>Water for Life has been released with implementation to be discussed in this meeting.</p>
<p>Staff movements</p>	<p>Following an external recruitment process, Alisha Clark (Field Officer Werribee) has been appointed Manager Water Licencing.</p> <p>Recruitment is occurring to replace Field Officer Werribee.</p> <p>Recruitment is occurring to back-fill some long term leave positions.</p>
<p>Water Sales</p>	<p>Tambo Winterfill sale is nearing completion with successful applicants to receive licences in March 2023.</p>
<p>Compliance and enforcement</p>	<p>DEECA Water Compliance team and SRW have launched short videos to help communicate the importance of metering and enforcing unauthorised take.</p> <p>Unauthorised take is monitored on a weekly basis. Mid-year meter reads identified several customers nearing their full allocated usage and trades are being organised to avoid unauthorised take.</p> <p>Investigations into reports of unauthorised dams in the Moorabool Catchment are ongoing. Approximately 80 of the 202 reported sites have been inspected since October 2022.</p> <p>Other unauthorised works including dams and bores are current within the West and Central region.</p>

Item No: **9.1**

Subject: **Important issues from other customer committees**

Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director, will provide a verbal update on important issues raised at other customer committees.

Item No: **9.2**

Subject: **Matters referred by the Board**

Jane Doolan, Board member, will discuss matters that have been referred by/to the Board.

Item No: **10**

Subject: **General Business**

The Chair will introduce any items of general business.

Item No: **11**

Subject: **Meeting evaluation**

The Chair will seek feedback on the effectiveness of this meeting.

The Chair will ask the forum to assess the performance of the committee at this meeting, using the below questions as a guide.

1. Do we think the committee is adding value?
 2. What's working?
 3. What's not working?
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Item No: **12**

Subject: **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum will be held on Friday 2 June 2023 at 9:30am, via Video Conference.

Item No: **13**

Subject: **Close**

The Chair will close the meeting.
