

# SGRF AGENDA

## Meeting no. 50

1pm, Wednesday 20 September 2023  
Via MS Teams

*'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 Values

We are Always Safe and Accountable working as One Team to deliver a lasting Legacy.

# **Southern Rural Water's Groundwater and Rivers Strategic Focus Areas**

**June 2023 – June 2024**

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 50

Date	Time	Location
20 September 2023	1pm	Via MS Teams

Topic			
1		Acknowledgement of County	Chair
2		Welcome and Apologies	Chair
3		Declaration of conflicts of interest	All
4		Confirmation of minutes – Meeting 49	Chair
	4.1	Attachment – Draft Minutes SGRF Meeting 49, 2 June 2023	
5		Business Arising	Chair
	5.1	Attachment - Business arising from previous meetings	
6		<b><u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR DISCUSSION</u></b>	
	6.1	Customer Engagement Review	Cameron FitzGerald
	6.2	Price Submission – Compliance	Craig Smith
	6.3	General Manager Service Delivery update - Moorabool Dams investigation - Groundwater and Rivers re-alignment	Simon Wilkinson
	6.4	Board update	Jane Doolan
7		<b><u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR NOTING</u></b>	
	7.1	Communications report	
8		<b><u>COMMITTEE MATTERS</u></b>	
	8.1	Important issues from other customer committees	Cameron FitzGerald
	8.2	Matters referred by/to the Board/board committee	Cameron FitzGerald

<b>9</b>	<b><u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u></b>	All
<b>10</b>	Meeting evaluation	
<b>11</b>	Next meeting	
<b>12</b>	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.'*

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Item No: 2

Subject: **Welcome and Apologies**

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

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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.

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Item No: 4  
Subject: Confirmation of minutes – Meeting 49  
Action: For approval  
Author: Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant  
Date: 12/09/2023

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## PURPOSE

1. To ensure that the minutes taken of committee meeting 49 are an accurate and sufficient record of discussions held and decisions made at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the committee approves the minutes of meeting 49 held on Friday 2 June 2023.

## 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 49, held via MS Teams, on Friday 2 June 2023 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, the minutes will be saved in Southern Rural Water's document management system and Southern Rural Water's Website.

## Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum

### Minutes of Meeting 49

Date	Time	Location
2 June 2023	9:30am	Via MS Teams

#### Present

Mr Ross Ingram	Chair
Ms Josie Zilm	Forum Member, Deputy Chair
Mr Matt Gleeson	Forum Member
Mr Daniel Toohey	Forum Member
Mr Norm Drew	Forum Member
Mr Steve Marshall	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	Manager Groundwater and Rivers, SRW
Ms Hayley Taylor	Executive Assistant, SRW (minutes)

#### Apologies

Mr Daniel Hammond	Forum Member
Mr Bruce Vallance	Forum Member

#### Absent

Mr Kevin Stark	Forum Member
Mr Damien Moore	Forum Member
Mr Tom Wallace	Forum Member

#### Guests

Anthony Jenkins	Senior Policy Officer, DEECA
Matthew Hudson	Principle Hydrogeologist, SRW



## 1. Acknowledgement of County

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.

## 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 of minutes – Meeting 48

The minutes of meeting 48 held on 17 March 2023 were **approved**.

**Moved:** Matt Gleeson

**Second:** Norm Drew

## 5. Business Arising

The report was taken as read.

The following points were discussed:

- Southern Rural Water (SRW) provided a link to documentation on the Water Quality Study within the meeting pack.
- Cultural Training options were provided to the committee within the meeting pack. Members were encouraged to refer to the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) maps website to find RAPs in their area.

## 6. GUEST SPEAKERS

### 6.1 GM2023

Mr Anthony Jenkins, Senior Policy Officer, DEECA, joined the meeting and discussed the Groundwater Management 2030 (GM2030) project. The following points were discussed:

- GM2030 supports point 4.18 in the Central Gippsland Regional Sustainable Water Strategy (CGSWS) to update groundwater management arrangements and implement priorities for reform.
- GM2030 is a statement of priorities for the next seven years for DEECA, SRW and other water corporations.
- There are three outcomes identified in GM2023:
  - Shared understanding of groundwater and its uses for evidence based management.

- Modern tools in the state-wide framework for flexible and cost-effective groundwater management.
- Streamlined effective licensing, trade roles and controls on groundwater use that support changing water uses.
- 13 priority areas have been identified that will ensure the outcomes are achieved.
- Since 2022, DEECA has formalised the governance structure, commenced work on Priority Area 1, and commenced stakeholder engagement on other priority areas.
- To the end of 2023, DEECA will be monitoring feedback on GM2030 priority area's in relation to timing and scope.

DEECA requested feedback from the committee, especially regarding how the project team can engage with groundwater users.

The committee inquired about the project's scope and confirmed that it is a state-wide project, with relevance to local management areas becoming apparent as the project progresses.

DEECA expressed willingness to provide regular updates and a program of work in relation to priority areas to the group, as well as work with SRW on finalising the implementation plan which will also help inform how DEECA engage with groundwater users.

The committee inquired whether:

- Priority one considers reducing Permissible Consumptive Volumes (PCV's) in response to climate change. DEECA stated that outcomes of the project should not be pre-empted.
- Changes to the use of groundwater are considered within the project. The committee was advised that the sustainable yields are being reviewed by DEECA and the GM2030 project considered scenarios relating to changed groundwater use.

The Chair thanked Mr. Jenkins for the presentation and expressed the desire for ongoing engagement and progress updates.

Mr Jenkins left the meeting.

## 6.2 Source, Demand and Values – seasonal scenarios

Mr Matthew Hudson, Principle Hydrogeologist, SRW, provided an update on the Source Assessment project, specifically the dry season scenario's as requested by the committee in a previous meeting.

In regard to dry season scenario's, the project identified potential restrictions of 20-40% of the time, and in the 2070 high climate scenario, restrictions could be in place 40-60% of the time.

The Chair thanked Mr Hudson for the presentation and conveyed the committee's appreciation for the dry climate scenarios.

### 6.3 Interactive groundwater maps

Mr Matthew Hudson, Principal Hydrogeologist, SRW, provided a demonstration of updated groundwater and rivers page on the SRW website and showcased how to access information using the interactive groundwater maps. The webpage makes it easier to find the relevant groundwater management plans by using an interactive map to take users directly to the relevant document.

The committee provided positive feedback on the usability of the maps.

The Chair thanked Mr Hudson for the presentation.

Mr Hudson left the meeting.

## 7. PRINCIPLE MATTERS – FOR DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Board Update

Dr Jane Doolan, Board Representative, SRW, advised the members of issues the board is currently discussing, including:

- Finalising the Price Submission and responding to the ESC after the posting of the draft Price Submission.
- Asset Management and implementing systems and plans into place to manage asset replacement programs.
- Customer engagement review.
- Debt management strategy.
- Completion of the Dam Safety review.
- Ongoing Enterprise Bargaining.

Key messages from the committee will be communicated to the board at the next meeting.

### 7.2 Manager Groundwater and Rivers Update

The report was taken as read.

The Manager Groundwater and Rivers advised:

- SRW has signed up with FinesVictoria to be able to issue infringement notices, which will allow SRW to issue notices for minor breaches to the water act.
- Warning letters will continue to be used as a first step for minor breaches and SRW is working to develop capacity with field officers in regard to compliance, including undertaking further training.

### 7.3 Update on GWR strategic focus areas

The committee discussed the relevance of the focus areas identified in the paper and provided the following feedback:

- They would like to see long-term projects progress faster and a renewed commitment to finalising and communicating the outcomes of projects that have been on the table for a long period of time.

- Mitchell licensing arrangements: Some members suggested consideration is given to the conversion of over-allocated aquifer licenses to winter fill entitlements and converting annual licenses to 15-year licenses.
- The ability to take water when water levels are high was also raised for consideration.

The Managing Director acknowledged the feedback and expressed that progress since the last meeting on Mitchell river water sales indicates SRW's commitment to addressing the committee's concerns regarding timeliness of implementing actions.

## 8. PRINCIPLE MATTERS – FOR NOTING

### 8.1 Communications Report

The report was taken as read.

### 8.2 mySRW update

The report was taken as read.

## 9. COMMITTEE MATTERS

### 9.1 Important issues from other customer committees

The Managing Director provided updates on issues discussed in other customer committees, including:

- MCCC is discussing delivery issues which have resulted in significant delays in customers accessing water.
- WBMCC is discussing drainage issues and receiving updates on how SRW is improving asset management in their area. This includes a discussion of a project involving the replacement of river water with high reliability recycled water, clarifying that it would be an opt-in project to address long-term reliability concerns.
- Customer engagement review paper to be reviewed by the board in June, with the board previously emphasising for the need for clear communication with customers without those conversations being impeded by other stakeholders. An overview of the recommendations as endorsed by the board will be provided to the committee at the next meeting.
- Media report on Moorabool Dams and SRW's investigation into illegal dam constructions. SRW has undertaken site inspections at many of these sites and has now deployed drones to survey dams where there are allegations of illegal constructions. SRW does not tolerate people taking water without the appropriate licencing.

The committee discussed the option of actively conducting landscape reviews. Management expressed the intention to implement such reviews in the future.

Action	Action Officer	Due Date
Present the Customer Engagement Review recommendations as endorsed by the board	C. FitzGerald	30/08/2023

## 9.2 Matters referred to/by the Board/Board Committee

The board representative advised that the following items will be taken back to the board:

- Strategic priorities – the committee would like to see long-term projects finalised and outcomes communicated including Mitchell licencing and winter fill arrangements as well as the possibility of customers being able to take water when water levels are high flow events (eg. during a flood).
- Encouragement from the committee that SRW use remote sensing for unauthorised works.

## 10. General Business

The members raised the following items:

Quorum for meetings: The committee discussed whether there was a quorum at the meeting. The Managing Director stated that although it is preferable to have as many members present as possible, he was not concerned if a quorum was not in attendance unless there was a motion that was to be put to the board.

In-person meetings: the committee **confirmed** that in-person meetings remain exclusively in person, but a hybrid meetings would be considered for unplanned circumstances that prevents a member from attending where they had previously indicated they would attend in person.

## 11. Meeting evaluation

The Chair sought feedback on the effectiveness of this meeting.

The Chair expressed satisfaction with the meeting, and positive comments were made by members regarding the ability to provide critical feedback, the value of the cross-sectional customer representation and the ability to connect directly with the board via the board representative.

## 12. Next meeting

The committee discussed the date of the next meeting and **agreed** to adjust the date to suit member's availability.

The committee **agreed** that members are to advise SRW whether or not they are attending meetings by responding to the meeting requests.

Action	Action Officer	Due Date
Confirm the next SGRF meeting date with members.	H. Taylor	30/06/2023

## 13. Close

With no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11:12am.

Item No: **5**  
Subject: **Business arising from previous meetings**  
Action: **For noting**  
Author: **Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant**  
Date: **12/09/2023**

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## **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:

- one action item has been completed,
- one action item will be discussed within this agenda, and
- one action item remains open:
  - Action 25108 – awaiting copies of Water is Life from DEECA.

## **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	
25202	Confirm the next SGRF meeting date with members.	SGRF meeting 49 - 2 June 2023, Agenda Item 12, Next meeting	30/06/23	18/08/23	Hayley Taylor	Meeting confirmed for 20 September 2023

## Action progress: This agenda

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment	
25201	Present the Customer Engagement Review recommendations as endorsed by the board .	SGRF meeting 49 - 2 June 2023, Agenda Item 9.1 Important issues from other customer committees	30/08/23	29/05/23	Cameron FitzGerald	Refer to agenda item 6.1

## Action progress: Overdue

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment	
25108	Copies of Water is Life is distributed to members including the presentation.	SGRF meeting 48 - 17 March 2023, Agenda Item 6.2, Water is Life	30/06/23		Hayley Taylor	<p>Hard copies of Water is Life will be distributed once received from DEECA. Water is Life can be found online at <a href="https://www.water.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-values/the-aboriginal-water-program">https://www.water.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-values/the-aboriginal-water-program</a> Due date extended.</p> <p>12/09/2023 - DEECA has been contacted to confirm the status of the hard copy versions of Water is Life. An update on when the hard copies are expected will be provided to the committee at the meeting.</p>

Item No: **6.1**

Subject: **Customer Engagement Review**

The Managing Director will address the committee and provide an overview of the results of the Customer Engagement Review.

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Item No: **6.2**

Subject: **Price Submission - Compliance**

Acting Manager Strategic Functions will discuss the outcome of the Price Submission in relation to funding SRW has allocated to compliance activities.

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Item No: **6.3**

Subject: **Strategic Focus and General Manager Service Delivery Update**

Action: **For noting**

Author: **Simon Wilkinson, General Manager Service Delivery**

Date: **12/09/2023**

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 is currently involved with a DEECA review of <u><i>Policies for Protecting High Value Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems.</i></u></p>
<p>Strategic focus 2. Continue to encourage a flexible trading market through improved internal procedures and Government policies.</p>	<p>SRW is about to commence work to explore opportunities for a trade platform supporting trade in unregulated systems focusing on the South West Limestone as a pilot. This work will follow a similar approach to that used to develop the trade platform for the Macalister Irrigation Area.</p> <p>A critical first step is to undertake social research to understand drivers and barriers to trade including price sensitivity to transaction costs to understand the feasibility of operating a platform.</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>SRW's focus for mySRW is to deliver an e-billing upgrade. Customers will have access to a payment gateway for applications and online payment features. Customers will be able to receive bills electronically and pay bills immediately via gateway.</p> <p>The team is working toward completing this project this financial year.</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>The SRW Resource and Strategy team have developed a prioritised plan for the review and renewal of local management plans across the SRW region. Focus areas are to include water systems that have been subject to water sales over the past 5 years.</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>SRW has granted two licences to Traditional Owners during the period. A surface water licence of 500ML has been granted in the Tambo System and a 200ML unincorporated groundwater licence near Buchan Caves.</p>
<p>Water Sales</p>	<p>Mitchell River Sale – Auction to be conducted in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Compliance and enforcement</p>	<p><b>Certificate IV – Government investigations</b></p> <p>Five SRW staff have commenced this course as part of upskilling for appointment as Authorised Water Officers (two Groundwater and Rivers, one Western Irrigation Business, two Eastern Irrigation Business).</p> <p>It is anticipated that dry conditions in the east of the state is likely to require a greater compliance presence this summer.</p> <p><b>New KPI</b></p> <p>Compliance staff will against a KPI of “Investigation commenced on 100% of reported breaches within 7 days.”</p>
<p>Moorabool Dams Investigation</p>	<p>SRW has continued to investigate alleged non-compliances regarding the construction of private dams in the Moorabool catchment. 220 dams have been individually assessed by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing SRW records (i.e. is a licence in place)</li> <li>• Satellite Mapping</li> <li>• Field inspections</li> <li>• Drone inspections of properties where access was difficult or additional photogrammetry data was necessary to assess compliance</li> </ul> <p>Assessment of these dams is being undertaken for compliance with the Water Act which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially hazardous</li> <li>• Irrigation take and use</li> <li>• Illegal construction on a waterway</li> </ul> <p>Detailed briefs of evidence are being compiled for all cases of suspected breaches. The process will then be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the evidence to the Delegated Authority for determination on whether a breach has occurred</li> </ul>

Issue	Commentary 2022-23
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue show cause notices where a breach(s) is confirmed by the Delegate (three have been issued so far)</li> </ul> <p>SRW will work through an orderly process focussing on the most significant issues first, giving consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community safety</li> <li>size of impact on catchment flows</li> <li>association with any illegal take and use for irrigation</li> </ul> <p>There are two tracks of investigation – enforcement notices and compliance notices</p>
Groundwater and Rivers realignment	<p>SRW has implemented a change to the Groundwater and Rivers team with the aim of further enhancing our focus on compliance with all of SRW’s delegated responsibilities.</p> <p>The change includes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Splitting the Manager Groundwater and Rivers role into two separate roles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manager, Statutory Functions - overseeing applications, licencing, statutory referrals and proactive identification of compliance issues (i.e. using the things we’ve learned from the Moorabool investigation to be more proactive in identifying potential non compliances).</li> <li>2. Manager, Operations and Compliance - overseeing all field based services to ensure SRW has a presence and focus on compliance and enforcement.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Recruitment of a Referral and Planning Coordinator to further enhance SRW with meeting all of its obligations as a statutory referral agency.</li> </ul> <p>Bryce Morden has exited the business and acting arrangements are currently in place with recruitment underway.</p> <p>Craig Smith will be acting as Manager, Statutory Functions</p> <p>Andrew Brick will be acting Manager, Operations and Compliance</p>
Groundwater and Rivers Team update	<p><b>Departures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Assessment Officer: Lynda Hardy - retired,</li> <li>Metering Modernisation Project Manager – Terry Clapham - retired</li> </ul> <p><b>New:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senior Assessment Officer: Simone Vale - Simone was previously an Assessment Officer,</li> </ul>

Issue	Commentary 2022-23
	and was the successful applicant for the Senior Assessment Officer role.
Manager Groundwater and Rivers comments – Bryce Morden	I want to thank the SGRF for being an excellent group to work with during my time at SRW. The professional conduct of the forum and strategic input across a wide range of matters has been of immense value to the wider SRW customer base, Board decision making and has influenced policy and priorities developed through DEECA.

Item No: **6.4**

Subject: **Board Update**

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

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Item No: 7.1  
Subject: **Communications and Engagement report – September 2023**  
Action: **For noting**  
Author: **Kris Perkovic, Senior Community Engagement Adviser**  
Date: **11/09/2023**

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## PURPOSE

- To update the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum 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. Quarterly newsletter

Southern Rural Water issued its second quarterly region-wide customer newsletter on Friday, 1 September. It featured several stories published on the news section of the SRW website. It was sent to 2,086 Groundwater and Rivers (GWR) customers with a valid email address, with 1,089 opening their email in the first week of distribution.

We encourage customers to update their details, including emails, in the Water Register, which they can do by contacting SRW on 1300 139 510.

### 5. Website

A selection of stories published on our website focused on groundwater and rivers.

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/water-trading-helps-garden-nursery-business-grow](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/water-trading-helps-garden-nursery-business-grow)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/season-outlook-alert-drier-times-ahead](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/season-outlook-alert-drier-times-ahead)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/temporary-ban-winterfill-pumping-mitchell-river](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/temporary-ban-winterfill-pumping-mitchell-river)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/wise-use-groundwater-drives-dairy-success-south-west-victoria](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/wise-use-groundwater-drives-dairy-success-south-west-victoria)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/recalibrating-long-term-sustainable-groundwater-use](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/recalibrating-long-term-sustainable-groundwater-use)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/delivering-more-value-customers-south-west-victoria](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/delivering-more-value-customers-south-west-victoria)

[www.srw.com.au/news-media/were-building-bores-help-bushfire-affected-communities](http://www.srw.com.au/news-media/were-building-bores-help-bushfire-affected-communities)

## 6. 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**  
30 August at 12:04

With a lower-than-average rainfall in the Mitchell River catchment, Southern Rural Water has enforced a ban on winterfill pumping. The ban will be lifted if stream flows rise above 1400 megalitres per day before the end of October.

This measure aligns with local regulations aimed at maintaining a healthy environment.

Read more at <http://www.srw.com.au/.../temporary-ban-winterfill...>

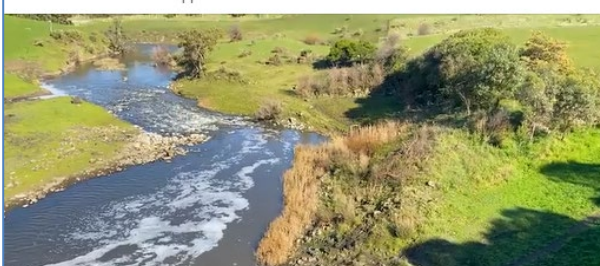


**Southern Rural Water**  
29 August at 20:27

Water is a vital resource we all need to live, work and play. That's why it needs to be managed fairly for all users.

If water users take more than they're entitled to, it impacts everyone in the catchment.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to water theft. ... See more




**Southern Rural Water**  
28 August at 12:33

Get ready to take your water trading to the next level.

We have launched Southern Rural Water Exchange, an online water trading platform, available to our customers within the Macalister Irrigation District as part of our pilot program.

Read more at <https://www.srw.com.au/.../macalister-water-trading...> See more




**Southern Rural Water Exchange is live.**

**Southern Rural Water**  
7 August at 20:40

Say g'day to the guys at **Drilltec Pty Ltd** who we're working with to build water bores to help bushfire affected communities.

These bores will plug gaps identified in the emergency water supply points network and give residents and emergency services increased access to water during difficult times.


The new bores are being built on Crown and council owned land and will supply unmetered water the community and emergency services can use only in extreme drought and extreme fir... See more



**We're drilling six bores in Nillumbik and Corangamite shires**

**Southern Rural Water**  
20 July

Expressions of interest will be closing on Tuesday, 25 July for the sale of 2,000 megalitres of water within the Mitchell River catchment.




**Mitchell River winterfill licences**

**Southern Rural Water**  
26 July

Are you buying or selling a property in southern Victoria?

Then find out how to transfer water licences as part of the sale.

Save yourself an extra headache by reading our quick guide here... See more



**Laying the foundations**

Licences to take and use water belong to a person, not a property.

This means any licence or water entitlement on a property's title is not transferred automatically as part of a sale.

Instead, a transfer of ownership must take place between the seller and buyer.

**Water licences**  
A guide when buying or selling property →

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

Item No: **8.1**

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

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

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Item No: **8.2**

Subject: **Matters referred by the Board**

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

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Item No: **9**

Subject: **General Business**

The Chair will introduce any items of general business.

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Item No: **10**

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?
- 

Item No: **11**

Subject: **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum will be held on Friday 1 December 2023 via MS Teams.

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Item No: **12**

Subject: **Close**

The Chair will close the meeting.

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