

SGRF AGENDA

Meeting no. 54

9.00am, Friday 2 August 2024
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 Groundwater and Rivers Forum member locations



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 Groundwater and Rivers Update at each meeting.

Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum

Meeting 54

Date	Time	Location
2 August 2024	9.00am – 12.00pm	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 53	Chair
4.1	Attachment – Draft Minutes SGRF Meeting 53, 3 May 2024	
5	Business Arising	Chair
5.1	Attachment - Business arising from previous meetings	
6	<u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR DISCUSSION</u>	
6.1	Groundwater and Rivers update	Penny Winbanks
6.2	Compliance and Enforcement	Russ Tomlin
6.3	Small Farm Dams – Project Update	Matt Hudson
7	<u>PRINCIPAL MATTERS – FOR NOTING</u>	
7.1	Communications report	
8	<u>COMMITTEE MATTERS</u>	
8.1	Important issues from other customer committees	Cameron FitzGerald
8.2	Matters referred to the Board/board committee	Jane Doolan
8.3	2024 Committee workplan	
9	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>	All

10	Meeting evaluation	
11	Next meeting	
12	Close	12.00pm

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 53
Action: For approval
Author: Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant
Date: 23/07/2024

PURPOSE

1. To ensure that the minutes taken of committee meeting 53 are an accurate and sufficient record of discussions held and decisions made at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee approves the minutes of meeting 53 held on Friday 3 May 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 53, held online via MS Teams, on Friday 3 May 2024 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 53

Date	Time	Location
3 May 2024	9:00am	via MS Teams

Present

Mr Ross Ingram	Chair
Mr Bruce Vallance	Forum Member/Deputy Chair
Mr Daniel Hammond	Forum Member
Mr Matt Gleeson	Forum Member
Mr Norm Drew	Forum Member
Mr Steve Marshall	Forum Member

In Attendance

Mr Cameron FitzGerald	Managing Director, SRW
Dr Jane Doolan	Board Director, SRW
Mr Simon Wilkinson	General Manager Service Delivery, SRW
Ms Penny Winbanks	Manager Statutory Functions
Ms Hayley Taylor	Executive Assistant, SRW (minutes)

Apologies

Mr Kevin Stark	Forum Member
Mr Matt Zagami	Forum Member

Absent

Mr Daniel Toohey	Forum Member
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Guests

Clinton Hartley	Strategy and Business Planner, SRW
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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 and noted the apologies.

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 52

The minutes of meeting 52 held on 2 February 2024 were **approved**.

Moved: Daniel Hammond **Second:** Matt Gleeson

5. Business Arising

The report was taken as read. The status comments were noted in relation to the information requested on sleeper licences in the Southwest.

6. PRINCIPLE MATTERS – for discussion

6.1 Groundwater and Rivers update

The report was taken as read.

Ms Penny Winbanks, Manager Statutory Functions discussed the Moorabool Dams investigation, advising SRW is continuing to work through the dams bought to the attention of SRW by the Concerned Waterways Alliance, with further investigations being undertaken with dam owners to understand whether there are instances of non-compliance. If non-compliances are identified, dam owners will be issued a Direction Notice to rectify the issue(s) identified. Owners have 28 days to decide whether they comply with the Notice or go to VCAT to contest the Notice.

6.2 South-West Limestone Barriers to Trade

Mr Clinton Hartley joined the meeting at 9:12am to discuss the findings of the South-West Limestone Barriers to Trade Project. Mr Hartley highlighted:

- The purpose of the project was to assess and understand the current barriers to water trading in the South-West Limestone Aquifer (SWLA).
- Overall, the study found a major increase in temporary or permanent trade is unlikely given significant geographical and practical barriers.
- 12 face to face interviews were conducted and 34 customers participated in a survey.
- Key themes from the engagement:

- the rules and Permissive Consumptive Volumes (PCV's), are preventing trade.
- there are significant financial costs associated with trading.
- information on how to trade and the rules, can be challenging to access and understand, including what groundwater is available to trade and the market price.

The committee commented that this is consistent across other area's as well as the SWLA. Due to lack of information, or hard to find information, people are hesitant to invest in bore construction.

The Committee discussed the findings and advised:

- Field Staff do not necessarily have the technical background to provide information on groundwater levels, aquifer information.
- Attitudes and beliefs around trading. The committee stated some of the smaller licence holders worry that if they don't use the water, it will be taken off them.

SRW inquired as to how to change that view, the Committee advised:

- education on the framework targeted towards smaller farmers, and older landholders to try to allay fears that their water will be taken off them. The Committee noted that these customer groups may not know who SRW or the local field officer is. The only communication they may have with SRW is when they receive their bill each year and electronic media may not be seen by these customers.
- Some customers may see their water as an asset (whether they use it or not) and are not interested in trading.
- Customers see the value of their land, but don't always understand the value trading unused water could bring.

The Committee **recommended** communications focus on the current state of the market (including the value of the trade), with a focused one-page information sheet detailing the how, why, value of trading (noting value requires self-declaration so sometimes data is limited), the difference between trading, and selling water and contacts for further information. This could be electronically distributed to customers, handed out by field staff, and added to the website. This factsheet could be used as a tool by customers wanting to trade, to assist the other party in understanding how the process works.

Mr Hartley advised the next steps of the project are:

- Develop recommendations, which will include the information provided by the committee.
- Deliver on endorsed recommendations.

Management inquired whether the Committee see value in the development of a trade platform, similar to the platform being trailed in the Macalister Irrigation Area, if barriers could be overcome. The Committee **recommended** a key outcome to help increase trading in the first instance would be:

- Provide information on the value of trading, including how the trading framework allows for temporary trading, meaning customers do not need to sell their water permanently and smoothing the pathway for trades to take place.

The Committee inquired as to how long water can be temporarily traded for. Management **agreed** to provide this information back to the committee with the draft minutes. Management advised once an initial trade has been approved, subsequent trades are less burdensome as risk assessments have already been completed.

The Committee noted that providing easy to understand, and easy to access information could increase trades, complexities such as daily extraction rates, areas with complicated framework mean there is an increased cost to the trade, which could be another barrier for some customers.

Management thanked the committee for the valuable conversation and noted the feedback from the committee at the last meeting, where feedback was raised that SRW needed to take more time to seek customer input on the project. By doing this, SRW was able to gather more information and insights from the customer group.

Mr Hartley left the meeting at 9:49am.

Action	Action Officer	Due Date
Advise SGRF on how long water can be temporarily traded for. Provide this information when the draft Minutes of the May 2024 SGRF meeting are distributed	P. WINBANKS	17/05/2024

Response to action, information provided to the Committee after the meeting:

All temporary trades expire on 30 June, nominally the "end of the season". Customers who apply for a temporary trade for one year have access to the water for the remainder of the year until June 30 (if the trade is approved in November, access will be from November to June, if approved in March access will be from March to June.

Customers can apply for temporary trades up to five years, with the trade expiring on June 30 of the fifth year.

6.3 Metering discussion

Ms Penny Winbanks, Manager Statutory Functions, SRW provided an overview of the requirements to read meters and highlighted the increased focus on Zero-tolerance to water theft.

Management sought feedback from the Committee on the benefits of reading all meters twice per year as documented in Local Management Plans. The committee advised:

- Meter reading time is a chance to speak with a SRW representative and is a great time to talk about other matters, hear what is going on at SRW and in the area. Some Field Officers let customers know when they will be at a property and the Member stated they appreciated the notice.
- It could be a great time to distribute information packs, like water trading.
- Field Staff reading meters demystifies the process, so people see there is active management of the asset they pay for.
- A Member advised that they don't really see the Field Officer but knows who they are and will phone if he needs information or has an issue.
- Suggested SRW provide information for customers to be able to read their own meters, to ensure they can assess their own compliance in between meter reads by SRW.
- Waterline can be difficult to navigate at times.
- Meter maintenance is an issue in some areas due to iron bacteria, and some customers don't know whose responsibility it is to maintain the meters. In some areas where there is an issue with iron bacteria also have Taggle installed, a meter may stop working. SRW need to ensure there are arrangements in place to ensure people are not using too much water.
- If SRW decrease the number of visits to properties other compliance issues (second pipe etc) may be missed.
- Attending properties for a meter read is a less formal opportunity for customers to engage with SRW, rather than having to book an appointment to speak to someone.

The Committee asked SRW to consider the value of automated meter reads, as staff still need to attend to ensure other compliance issues are not taking place.

It was agreed that the relationship between customers and Field Officers and the information they can provide, is important and SRW still need to make sure points of interaction are maintained, ensure there is a regular touchpoint between customers and SRW, and customers know who the field officer in their area is. SRW compliance interactions are seen as an important connection to customers and Management should keep this in mind as zero-tolerance activities increase.

The Committee discussed the obligation of customers providing clear and safe access to meters and SRW will work to locate meters in a place that is accessible.

6.4 Board Update

Dr Jane Doolan, Board Director, SRW provided an update of items discussed at the last board meeting:

- SRW is required to provide a government dividend and are working through how to pay this within the current Price Submission. The Committee inquired what this means, with the Managing Director advising that in May 2023 budget, the Government required all water corporations to pay a dividend to repay the costs associated with COVID response. The Government has asked for 1% of

operating costs year on year to be repaid by efficiencies. Management are confident SRW can meet this.

- Briefing on Environmental Duty of Care – SRW as an organisation have a general duty of care and are working through what this will look like across the water sector.
- The board has picked up issues raised by this committee and have a planned briefing from DEECA regarding how forestry is being considered as part of the water allocation framework.
- The board have undertaken a skills discussion, including reviewing the board member summary on the website, and is working to include references to a wider set of skills in the summary rather than just corporate related skills. The board is also developing a skills matrix to further identify the skills required across the board table.

7. PRINCIPLE MATTERS – FOR NOTING

7.1 Communications Report

The report was taken as read.

8. COMMITTEE MATTERS

8.1 Important issues from other customer committees

Mr Cameron FitzGerald, Managing Director, SRW advised:

- SRW are working with Werribee customers as part of the Werribee Re-configuration project, which looks at replacing river water with high quality recycled water. There is a strong view from the reference group, that if high-quality recycled water can be supplied, it would be a great thing. A 10-point plan has been developed and Melbourne Water will attend the next meeting to talk about how to move forward with the project.
- Significant dry period late in the season in the Macalister Irrigation Area, with high use and 100% HRWS for customers, meaning customers wanted to order large volumes of water at one time. A high-demand protocol was developed to deliver these high volumes of water to customers. This meant taking the system out of automation to run more water through it, and while this means there was more outfalls from channels, customers were able to receive their water in shorter timeframes than if the system was left in automation. A review has been implemented into how to operate the system better to ensure customers are able to access the volumes of water they want in a fair way for all customers.

A member inquired as to how the Place of Take reforms could work to ensure that all customers are able to access their same portion of water.

Management advised that any changes to the way water is delivered will require significant consultation with customers. A conversation was had with the MCCC around the automated system with feedback being that the automated system is great most of the time. From this conversation, the high demand protocol was developed which gives planners back control of the system in periods of high demand, to try to fit more orders in.

8.2 Matters referred to/by the Board/Board Committee

Dr Doolan, Board Director advised that the following feedback would be provided to the board:

- Outcomes of what limits trade in SWLA and what can be practically and sensibly done to promote trade.
- From the metering discussion, the Committee noted the importance and benefits of the personal interactions with field staff that come from metering activities, which SRW need to appreciate and take on board if metering is reduced.
- The SGRF noted their appreciation of the attention the board has given to the skills matrix after the discussion at a previous meeting.

8.3 2024 Committee workplan

The committee **noted** the 2024 committee workplan.

Management highlighted the Small Farm Dams project is a Sustainable Water Strategy action item, and SRW will invite a representative from the project to attend the next meeting to discuss the project and hear from the committee on their views.

Mr Russell Tomlin, Manager Operations and Compliance will attend the next meeting to discuss compliance and enforcement activities being undertaken at SRW.

9. General Business

The Chair called for any items of General Business, with none raised.

10. Meeting evaluation

The Chair sought feedback on the effectiveness of this meeting.

The Chair thanked Management for taking on the Committee's feedback regarding SWLA Barriers to Trade Project

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Groundwater and Rivers Forum will be held on Friday 2 August 2024 via MS Teams.

12. Close

With no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10:37am.

Item No: **5**
Subject: **Business arising from previous meetings**
Action: **For noting**
Author: **Hayley Taylor – Executive Assistant**
Date: **23/07/2024**

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, and
- once action item will remain open until the date of the Strategic Futures Forum has been confirmed.

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	
35451	Advise SGRF on how long water can be temporarily traded for. Provide this information when the draft Minutes of the May 2024 SGRF meeting are distributed	SGRF meeting 53- 3 May 2024, Agenda Item 6.2 South-west Limestone Barriers to Trade	17/05/24	17/05/24	Penny Winbanks	Response to action, information provided to the Committee after the meeting: All temporary trades expire on 30 June, nominally the "end of the season". Customers who apply for a temporary trade for one year have access to the water for the remainder of the year until June 30 (if the trade is approved in November, access will be from November to June, if approved in March access will be from March to June. Customers can apply for temporary trades up to five years, with the trade expiring on June 30 of the fifth year.

Action progress: Overdue

Action	Source	Due date	Completed date	Accountable officer	Status comment	
25330	Advise the SGRF of the date of the Strategic Futures Forum as soon as it is known.	SGRF meeting 51- 1 December 2023, Agenda Item 11 - Meeting evaluation	29/03/24		Hayley Taylor	Due date extended as date has not been confirmed. Action to remain open until date is confirmed, and SGRF notified.

Item No: **6.1**

Subject: **Strategic Focus Areas and Groundwater and Rivers update**

Action: **For noting**

Author: **Penny Winbanks, Manager Statutory Functions**

Date: **23/07/2024**

Focus area	Commentary
<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>DEECA will continue to be invited to SGRF meetings to discuss GM2030.</p> <p>SRW continue to actively participate to discussions around apportionment of allocation from the 3-4 bench, as well as other forums around licensing and metering guidelines and access to unallocated water.</p>
<p>Strategic focus 2. Continue to encourage a flexible trading market through improved internal procedures and Government policies.</p>	<p>SRW has completed work to explore opportunities for a trade platform supporting trade in unregulated systems focusing on the South West Limestone as a pilot.</p> <p>The outcomes of this report are currently being finalised to determine appropriate work program.</p> <p>A further update is in the section below</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. The team is awaiting a 'proof of concept' from a supplier and will then undertake a review of the concept to determine whether there are any consequential matters that would mean the concept would not be fit for purpose.</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>We have initiated work to consolidate our understanding of how climate change may impact the reliability of water systems.</p> <p>This combined with findings from DEECAs Sustainable Yield project will help us identify critical focus points for investment.</p>
<p>Strategic focus 5. Understanding the implications of rapidly evolving cultural water policy</p>	<p>SRW are working with DEECA to gain clarity and determine equitable processes. This will link to work being completed by the Strategy, People & Culture Group.</p>

on customer aspirations for improved access to water.	In the meantime, we will continue to assess complete applications for water from Recognised Aboriginal Parties (RAP) on a case-by-case basis. We are currently focussing on licence applications from Bunurong, and have initiated communication with GLaWAC around their remaining licence applications.
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Issue	Commentary
South West Limestone - Barriers to trade project	<p>DEECA has funded a social research project to understand the barriers to trade within the Southwest Limestone GMA.</p> <p>This work has been largely completed, we are working to finalise the final report. The project team presented the draft findings at the previous meeting, and have since taken some key recommendations to the Executive. As a result the Executive have endorsed the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer the option for customers to request an online Teams meeting with relevant SRW staff • Communications material review and development of refreshed communications plan • Expand a trial of the Southern Rural Water Exchange for groundwater in the Southwest Limestone
Compliance and enforcement	<p>We have initiated an internal process to undertake an audit of potentially hazardous dams. This includes an audit of licence terms, and inspections of all High C and High B dams due for renewal this year (which is roughly 150).</p> <p>We are also seeking to determine a compliance uplift strategy/roadmap that will be presented to the group in August</p>
3-4 bench apportionment update	<p>SRW have been engaged with DEECA and other key stakeholders as we work through Action 4-7 of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy which seeks to allocate 16GL to irrigators, the environment and Traditional Owners.</p> <p>SRW are taking steps to understand how we can operationalise any water provided to us through the above process once a determination has been made.</p>
Moorabool Dams Investigation	<p>From 223 dams identified as potentially breaching the Water Act 1989, we have determined that 195 are compliant.</p> <p>We have issued 11 Ministerial Directions including, two s80 notices, one s151 Notice of Contravention, and eight s78 notices.</p> <p>Following the issue of notices, to date, three dams were escalated through VCAT. One of which has now been</p>

Issue	Commentary
	<p>subject to an application under s67 to modify the dame to ensure compliance.</p> <p>The remaining dams are still the subject of further field investigations.</p>
Small dams investigation	<p>Within the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water strategy there is an action to undertake an assessment of the impact of small catchment dams in peri urban environment.</p> <p>SRW has engaged consultants to undertake this work.</p> <p>We will provide an update on the progress of this work at this meeting</p>
Water for Traditional Owners	<p>We have a number of applications for water from Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) and we are currently reassessing them to determine what if any further information is required before we initiate an assessment process.</p> <p>We are currently focussing on applications from Bunurong, and will likely be running EOI process for consumptive users in these river systems.</p> <p>We have also initiated conversations with GLaWAC to clarify their applications and agree processes. This may result in EOI processes for consumptive users on relevant systems this year.</p>
Mitchell River Management Review	<p>This work is being funded by DEECA and seeks to review the management arrangement in the Mitchell River catchment.</p> <p>We are currently contacting stakeholders to participate in discussions to identify the problem/opportunities and we working to determine the best way to engage with customers more broadly in the region.</p> <p>We have a hold point identified for September 2024 at which point we will determine next steps based on findings to date.</p>
Complex licensing determination processes and cost recovery frameworks	<p>SRW are undertaking work to establish a risk-based approach to assessing complex licence applications (such as the Latrobe Valley Mine Renewals and Alcoa).</p> <p>As a part of this work we are also seeking to establish frameworks for cost recovery which will include the ability to charge for specialist services provided to potential applicants before an application is made. This may extend to requests from customers for site visits depending on resource intensity (time, expertise etc)</p>

Item No: **6.2**

Subject: **Compliance and Enforcement**

Mr Russell Tomlin, Manager Groundwater and Rivers Operations and Compliance, SRW, will attend the meeting to discuss SRW's compliance and enforcement activities and seek feedback from the committee on focus areas for the next 12 – 24 months.

Item No: **6.3**

Subject: **Small Farm Dams – Project Update**

Mr Matthew Hudson, Principal Hydrogeologist, SRW, will attend the meeting and provide an update on the Small Farm Dam's project.

Item No: 7.1
Subject: **Communications and Engagement report – August 2024**
Action: **For noting**
Author: **Kris Perkovic, Senior Community Engagement Adviser**
Date: **2/08/2024**

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 latest region-wide customer newsletter in June 2024. It was distributed to groundwater and rivers customers with a valid email address. The next newsletter will be distributed in early September 2024.

5. Website

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

www.srw.com.au/news-media/meet-gippslands-female-agribusiness-award-winner

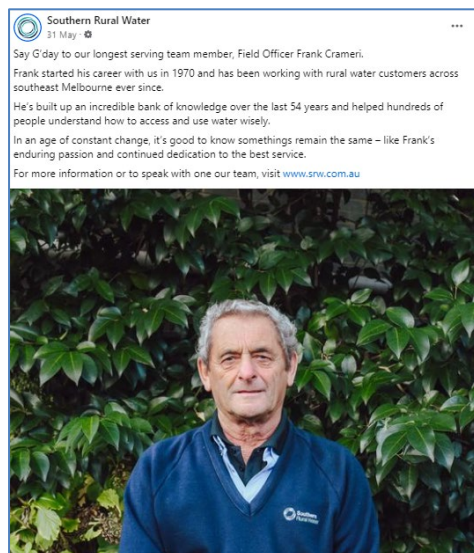
www.srw.com.au/news-media/southern-rural-water-go-bonkers-bovines-national-cow-appreciation-day

www.srw.com.au/news-media/temporary-ban-winterfill-pumping-mitchell-river-0

www.srw.com.au/news-media/winter-season-outlook-planning-warmer-winter

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.



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.

Item No: **8.2**

Subject: **Matters referred to the board/board committee.**

Dr Jane Doolan, SRW Board Director, will discuss matters that will be referred to the Board.

Item No: **8.3**

Subject: **2024 Committee workplan**

Southern Rural Water will provide updates to the committee as indicated in the 2024 Committee workplan. Additional items can be added to the agenda at the request of committee members and by SRW to address any current issues or events.

During meetings, the committee can request that items are added to the workplan to ensure that updates on specific topics are provided at key intervals.

The workplan will be included as an agenda item for each meeting.

A copy of the 2024 Committee workplan is included as attachment 8.3.1 for **noting**.

SOUTHERN GROUNDWATER AND RIVERS FORUM ROLLING WORK PLAN

	Requirement	2024				2025				Notes
		FEB	MAY	AUG	NOV	FEB	MAY	AUG	NOV	
Principal & Business Matters	Communications report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Board update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	GWR Strategic Focus Areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Report on progress each meeting as part of the Manager GWR update. Update Focus Area's each May.
	Plan for new Financial Year			✓				✓		Plan to address Key Focus Areas
	Groundwater and Rivers Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Brief paragraph to update to committee on current projects and issues
Policy and strategic direction	Committee appointments	✓								As required. (Chair and Deputy Chair vote)
	Compliance and Enforcement			✓				✓		EOFY performance
	Climate Outlook and Drought Response Update				✓				✓	
	Corporate Plan			✓		✓		✓		August – Corporate Plan (new plan for noting) February – Discussion – what does the SGRF want to seen in the Corporate Plan. Align with GWR Strategic Focus Areas
Project updates (DEECA and SRW)	SWL Barriers to Trade	✓	✓							Final report to be presented - May 2024
	SWS 4.13 – Small Farm Dams			✓ (update)						Once consultant has been engaged by DEECA
	GM2030									At key project milestones
Admin / Other	Meeting evaluation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MD to provide verbal update
	Important issues from other customer committees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
	Matters referred to the committee by the board/board committee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Committee Workplan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Item No: **9**

Subject: **General Business**

The Chair will introduce any items of general business.

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 is proposed to be held on Friday 15 November 2024, in person, in Melbourne at VicWater, or another central CBD location.

It is proposed that the date is changed from the first Friday of November, as the Spring Racing Carnival and Melbourne Cup Public Holiday may impact availability of members and attendees.

Item No: **12**

Subject: **Close**

The Chair will close the meeting.
