



SUMMARY OF THE ORDINARY BOARD MEETING held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 remotely via MS Teams

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*Certified to best practice standards
ISO 9001 / 14001 and AS/NZS 4801*

Present:

Directors: Caroline Welsh (Chair), Andrew Nicolaou, Jude Holt, Michelle Jackson, Rodney Jackson, Paul Hardy, Stuart Read, Jess Adler (Directors) and Mark Williams (Managing Director).

In Attendance: Sally Marshall (Executive Manager Strategic Planning and Performance), Nick Mumford (Executive Manager Infrastructure), Adele Rohde, (Executive Manager Customer and Employee Experience), Michael Schneider (Executive Manager Infrastructure) and Janet Carra (Board Secretary).

1. Opening and Welcome from the Chairman

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present, as well as Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be present.

2. Apologies

Nil.

3. Declaration by Board Directors

3.1 Register of Interest

Noted.

3.2 Lobbying Activities

Nil.

4. Occupational Health and Safety Update

The Board reviewed OHS matters, including updated benchmarks, workplace safety and reported incidents for the months of March and April 2026.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Board confirmed the minutes of the Board Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2026 and the Special Board Meeting held 22 April 2026, as circulated.

6. Action List Update from Previous Minutes

Noted.

7. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on recent discussions at a water sector Chairs' meeting with the Minister for Water, including water security, infrastructure and community understanding of water services.

Recent discussion at an AICD technology forum also highlighted the importance of AI oversight and the role of people in successful technology adoption.

8. Non-Executive Director's Reports and Insights

Directors thanked staff for a recent asset tour and the Customer and Stakeholder Workshop held 24 April 2026, which provided useful operational and customer context.

An update was provided from the Chair of the Audit, Governance and Risk Committee on cyber security, asset valuation, risk framework matters and upcoming governance items discussed at the committee meeting held 6 May 2026.

Directors acknowledged that the information session held prior to the Board meeting was a useful opportunity to ask questions and continue discussion on important matters outside the formal agenda, with water allocation in a finite system identified as a potential topic for a future session.

9. Presentations

9.1 Regional Developments

Regional Development Victoria and Invest Victoria briefed the Board on major development opportunities across north-west Victoria and the infrastructure constraints affecting regional growth. The update covered mining and industry projects, progress at Doon, housing and serviced land needs, and the Halls Gap infrastructure project funding application.

9.2 Clean Energy Strategy Update - Nhill and Donald

An update was provided on GWMWater's renewable energy projects at Nhill and Donald, with the Nhill project reaching practical completion in May 2026. Work is continuing to progress the Donald Community Battery and broader microgrid proposal, with GWMWater actively seeking solutions to network connection issues.

10. Decision Papers - Section 1

10.1 Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director reported on various activities and issues he was involved in since the previous Board meeting. A summary of matters arising is provided below:

- Advised that physical delivery of the East Grampians pipeline was completed on 1 May 2026, with hydro testing continuing and full commissioning of the system expected by 30 June 2026.
- Reported that the Victorian Government lodged its submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Review on 1 May 2026, maintaining its opposition to buybacks and reinforcing Victoria's strong contribution to National Water Reform.
- Noted a visit from the IWN Executive Officer on 28 April 2026, including discussion of current projects, energy initiatives and potential support for point of use/point of entry technology to improve water quality in smaller towns.
- Provided an update on the Nhill Renewable Energy Facility, which has now achieved the agreed operational performance for practical completion, as well as ongoing discussions with Powercor in relation to the Donald Community Battery and ARENA microgrid application.

- Advised of a meeting with the Chris Santagiuliana, new CEO of Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), and noted that BGLC has formally signed a Land Use Activity Agreement strengthening Traditional Owner procedural rights in relation to activities on public land.
- Reported on council briefings held with Buloke, Gannawarra, Yarriambiack and Pyrenees Shires, covering local priorities including water security, recreation water, mining activities, drinking water quality improvements and rural pipeline opportunities.
- Provided an update on ESC draft decisions for Melbourne Water and North East Water, noting these will inform GWMWater's strategy for preparation of the 2028–2033 Water Price Submission.
- Reported on participation in the Water Industry Operators Association Annual Conference, including GWMWater's recognition as a finalist in the drinking water competition, Mark Reid's award as Operator of the Year, and staff presentations at the event.
- Reported positively on contractor safety and staff training sessions delivered by Barry Sherriff in late March 2026, with encouraging feedback from both contractors and staff.

10.2 Business Performance Report

The Board received the Business Performance Report outlining the interim result of the operational and financial performance of GWMWater for the month ending April 2026 and endorsed the quarterly report ending March 2026 submitted to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

10.3 Rural Meter and Remote Telemetry Unit Renewals Tender Award

The Board approved the recommendation to award contract C01432 – Rural Meter and Remote Telemetry Unit Renewals to the recommended tenderer.

11. Decision Papers – Section 2

11.1 Environment and Works Committee Charter

The Board endorsed the Environment and Capital Works Committee Charter reflecting current governance practices, Victorian Government policy updates, and GWMWater's operational requirements.

11.2 Instruments of Delegation

The revised Instruments of Delegation, outlining the financial and delegated authority assigned to individual positions, was approved by the Board.

11.3 Board Policy Updates

The Board approved revisions to GWMWater's Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality and Ex-Gratia Expenses policies.

11.2 People and Culture Strategy

The Board adopted the 2026–2031 People and Culture Strategy, which provides a clear framework to strengthen workforce capability, leadership, succession planning and organisational culture in support of the Strategic Plan 2025–2029.

12. Discussion Papers – Section 1

12.1 East Grampians and Mininera Rural Pipeline Project Update

Pipeline construction under the East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project is complete with 584.1 kilometres of pipeline installed. Pipe installation for Mininera Zone 5 has commenced with 1.68 kilometres of horizontal directional drilling completed so far.

13. Discussion Papers – Section 2

13.1 Consultative Committee and Reference Group Meetings

The Board noted the update on the Wimmera-Glenelg Water Resource Assessment provided by the Storage Manager on 2 April and 8 May 2026. It also received a summary of the Customer and Stakeholder Workshop held at the Horsham Golf Club on Friday 24 April 2026. Presentations covered the Water Resource Outlook, Donald and Nhill renewable energy projects, the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy (DEECA), the Water Industry Performance Report, and Priority Improvement Areas.

13.2 Dam Failure Risk Assessment Reporting

The Board received an overview of GWMWater’s key dam safety risks, progress to date, and priority actions, noting that GWMWater operates 185 in-service dams, storages and weirs.

13.3 GWMWater Traditional Owner Working Group Update

The Board received a summary of Traditional Owner engagement activities for the quarter ended March 2026, noted the approach to reconciliation action planning, and received an update on emerging resourcing needs for Traditional Owner engagement.

14. Correspondence

Noted.

15. Documents for Signing Under Seal

Noted.

16. Documents Signed Under Delegated Authority

Noted.

17. General Business

Updates were provided on the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy, the recent urban and rural water supply and demand strategy conference in Melbourne, and Teddington Reservoir.

18. Meeting Feedback

Noted.

19. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, 17 June 2026.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a summary record of the Ordinary Board Meeting held 20 May 2026 provided for information only as meeting minutes will not be confirmed until the June 2026 meeting.