



SUMMARY OF THE ORDINARY BOARD MEETING

held on Wednesday, 17 June 2026

11 McLachlan Street, Horsham

and remotely via MS Teams

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Present:

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

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

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

Director Andrew Nicolaou

3. Declaration by Board Directors

3.1 Register of Interest

Director Adler has been appointed Board Secretary of the Centre of Participation. Director R. Jackson advised that he has been invited by the WorkSafe CEO to contribute to its RAP innovation program for a short-term period over the coming months.

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 month of May 2026.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Board confirmed the minutes of the Board Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2026, as circulated.

6. Action List Update from Previous Minutes

Noted.

7. Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on the Managing Director recruitment process. Recruitment agency, Omera Partners is currently receiving expressions of interest with applications closing on 26 June 2026.

The Board and members of the Executive of GWMWater met with Commissioners of the Essential Services Commission (ESC) in Melbourne on 4 June 2026 as part of the ESC engagement program where GWMWater also shared information specific to preparation for GWMWater's 2028-2033 Price Submission.

The Chair and Director Jess Adler attended OzWater'26 in Brisbane from 26 to 28 May. The conference provided an opportunity to engage with the broader water sector. GWMWater was represented by way of three staff presentations and a nomination for a National Safety Award.

The Chair attended the official opening of the Sustainable Recreation Water Project for Quambatook held at the Quambatook Weir Pool on Thursday 11 June 2026. The event was hosted by Gannawarra Shire Council. Council acknowledged GWMWater for its contribution and support for the project. The event was well-attended with about 40 people present reflecting the benefits of these projects for small communities.

The Chair advised the Board that the Member for Mildura, Jade Benham MP, has been appointed Shadow Minister for Water.

8. Non-Executive Director's Reports and Insights

The Board Committee Chairs provided a recap on discussions held during the Climate, Country and Sustainability Committee, Environment and Capital Works Committee, and People and Culture Committee meetings held since the previous Board meeting.

9. Presentations

Nil.

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 is provided below:

- Reported on participation in a DEECA-facilitated conference on Urban Water Supply Demand Strategies, where GWMWater presented its methodology and broader water sector security issues were discussed.
- Provided an update on engagement with Mildura Rural City Council, including future drinking water quality considerations for Walpeup and Murrayville.
- Reported that the Minister for Health has approved GWMWater's application to revoke the regulated water status of the Kaniva water supply.
- Noted GWMWater's participation in OzWater'26 from 25-28 May, including three staff presentations on natural disasters and their recovery, safety strategy renewal, and energy management.

- Reported on National Reconciliation Week activities involving staff participation in a cultural learning event discovering the cultural significance of the Wimmera River and McKenzie Creek at the Yanga Track north of the Horsham wastewater treatment plant.
- Acknowledged Board engagement with the Essential Services Commission on 3 June 2026 on issues of relevance to the 2028–2033 Water Price Submission.
- Advised the Board on the outcome of the ESC final determination on the North East Water and Melbourne Water’s Price Submissions.
- Advised of the launch of the Sustainable Recreation Water for Quambatook project on 12 June by the Gannawarra Shire Council.
- Provided an update on dam safety assessment work for the Teddington Reservoirs.
- Reported on the release of the Victorian Public Sector Commission People Matter Survey results on 5 June, which provided positive feedback from the staff of GWMWater in the areas of leadership, collaboration and innovation.
- Provided an update on the Donald Community Battery, including ongoing discussions regarding connection options.

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 May 2026.

11. Decision Papers – Section 2

11.1 2026/27 Tariff Approvals

The Board endorsed the tariffs for 2026/27 and the publication of urban/rural tariffs in accordance with regulatory requirements and the allowable limits approved by the Essential Services Commission.

11.2 Recreation Lake Supply for 2025/26

The Board approved the Managing Director to transfer up to 2,450 ML of water allocation from GWMWater’s Urban and Rural water holdings to the Recreation Water entitlement, including a commitment of 680 ML from Murray and Goulburn entitlements for supply to Ouyen Lake and Green Lake (Sea Lake), consistent with the Recreation Lakes supply plan.

11.3 Moyston Drinking Water Pipeline

The Board approved additional contingency as part of the Moyston Water Quality Upgrade Project to manage the high volume of rock affecting the pipeline construction.

11.4 Nhill Tank Replacement

The Board endorsed a delegation to the Managing Director to enter into a Deed of Variation for the Nhill Tank Renewal project to enable the scope of the project to include the construction of a second tank.

11.5 Our Strategy 2025-2029

The Board received the key strategic measures and initiatives to support Board oversight of performance against *Our Strategy 2025-2029* and organisational alignment to strategic priorities.

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 final commissioning across Zones 2-4 expected in July 2026. Under the Mininera Rural Pipeline Project, 20.7km of pipe and 4.36km of horizontal directional drilling has been installed to date.

12.2 Board Director Liability – Dam Failure Risk

The Board was provided with an overview of directors' liability in relation to dam safety.

13. Discussion Papers – Section 2

13.1 Mid-Year Update on Infrastructure Investment Strategy

An update on the progress of the GWMWater Infrastructure Investment Strategy was provided to the Board.

13.2 Helen Silver Review

The Board considered GWMWater's response to the Helen Silver Review and sector expectations for increased collaboration and efficiency opportunities within the sector.

13.3 Environmental Water Pricing

Environmental water pricing was discussed in the context of GWMWater's pricing policies and the Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy.

14. Correspondence

Noted.

15. Documents for Signing Under Seal

Noted.

16. Documents Signed Under Delegated Authority

Noted.

17. General Business

General business included updates on the Western Sustainable Water Supply Strategy review, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder review, and occupational crossings from Rocklands to Toolondo Channel.

18. Meeting Feedback

Noted.

19. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, 19 August 2026.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a summary record of the Ordinary Board Meeting held 17 June 2026 provided for information only as meeting minutes will not be confirmed until the August 2026 meeting.

Acknowledgement of Board activities:

Prior to the Board meeting, the GWMWater Board and Executive Team, together with representatives from the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, participated in Cultural Awareness training delivered by Bonnie Chew of Mirriyu Cultural Consulting. The training covered Water is Life, Traditional Owner engagement, Registered Aboriginal Parties, TOSA, Native Title, identity and Treaty, including the uncertainty around how local communities may choose to engage.

