Minutes

GWMWater

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Summary of the Ordinary Board Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2026
11 McLachlan Street, Horsham and remotely via Microsoft Teams

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

In attendance: Sally Marshall (Executive Manager Strategic Planning and Performance), Michael Schneider (Executive Manager Service Delivery), Adele Rohde (Executive Manager Customer and Employee Experience), Chris Wright (Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure) and Janet Carra (Board Secretary). Jon Goodall (Manager Occupational Health and Safety) attended for Item 4 'Monthly OHS Performance Report'.

1 Opening and Welcome from the Chair
The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held and paid respects to their Elders, past and present as well as Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be present.

2 Apologies
Nil.

3 Declaration by Members of the Climate, Country and Sustainability Committee

3.1 Register of Interests
Director M .Jackson declared a conflict of interest in Item 10.3 'Piangil Clean Water Tender'.

3.2 Lobbying Activities
Nil.

4 Monthly OHS Performance Report
The Board reviewed OHS matters, including updated benchmarks, workplace safety and reported incidents for the month ending August 2026.

5 Confirmation of Minutes
The Board confirmed the minutes of the Board Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2026, as circulated.

6 Action List Update from Previous Minutes
Noted.

7 Chair's Report

The Chair reported on attendance at an AICD Climate Governance Forum on 28 August 2026, as well as the VicWater Annual Conference held in Melbourne on 8-10 September 2026. Presentations by other water corporations were cited as a key highlight of the conference. A Chairs and Managing Directors forum preceded the conference, with discussion focussed on the response to the Helen Silver Review.

The appointment of new Minister for Water, Michaela Settle MP and a change in leadership at Ararat Rural City Council were noted.

The Board noted that expression of interest for an Independent Aboriginal Delegate to the Board are open, with applications closing on 30 September 2026.

The Board also acknowledged and congratulated the Managing Director on reaching 30 years of service with GWMWater and its predecessor authority.

8 Non-Executive Director's Reports and Insights

The respective Chairs of the Audit, Governance and Risk Committee, Environment and Capital Works Committee, and People and Culture Committee provided an update on activities discussed since the last Board meeting.

9 Presentations

9.1 Water Allocation in a Finite System

A presentation was provided to Board on water allocation and operation of the Wimmera–Glenelg system. The presentation outlined the regulatory framework for determining available water and allocations, including carryover, reserves, passing flows and the differing reliability of entitlements.

The Board also received an overview of how the headwork system operated with a focus on the eastern, central, western and lower headworks. The presentation focussed on how water is transferred through the system and the operational constraints associated with storage efficiency, water quality and environmental obligations.

9.2 AI Adoption at GWMWater

The Board received an update on GWMWater's adoption of artificial intelligence. A governance framework, enablement process and use-case register are being established to assess future AI applications against benefits, costs, cybersecurity, privacy and other risks.

10 Decision Papers

10.1 Managing Director's Report

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

- The recent change in Victorian Government ministerial appointments was noted, including Michaela Settle as Minister for Rural and Regional Development, Agriculture and Water, and Martha Haylett as Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development.
- Provided an update on briefings with Northern Grampians Shire and Swan Hill Rural City Council regarding current projects, local priorities and areas of shared interest.

- Advised that correspondence has been sent to the Storage Manager seeking operation of Lake Lonsdale in a way that reduces the likelihood of exceeding the Maximum Operating Level.
- Provided an update on industry collaboration activities, including the Northern Urban Water Accord workshop, discussions with Wannon Water, and ongoing interest from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in collaboration opportunities.
- Provided an update on the Donald Community Battery Project and Nhill Renewable Energy Facility.
- Provided an update on water resources with storage levels continuing to improve.
- Reported on progress with the Urban Rural Water Supply Demand Strategy, including technical work on the Wimmera-Glenelg system outlook, rural demand forecasting, Level of Service considerations and links to future infrastructure investment planning.

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 31 August 2026.

10.3 Piangil Clean Water Tender

The Board approved the award of Contract C01541 for the design and construction of the Piangil Dissolved Air Floatation Facility to the preferred tenderer.

10.4 Standing Directions 2025-26

The Board endorsed the assessment by management that GWMWater is materially compliant with the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act* 1994.

10.5 Asset Revaluation – Infrastructure Assets; Land and Buildings

The Board adopted the independent infrastructure asset valuation; and land and buildings valuation as accurate, complete and fair basis for financial reporting as at 30 June 2026.

10.6 2025-26 Annual Financial Statements

The Board received the Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, pending final confirmation from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). Management's responses and actions addressing the audit observations and recommendations for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 were noted.

Formal adoption of the Annual Financial Statements will be undertaken when audit clearance from VAGO is received with this being imminent.

10.7 Capital Works Program Carry-over Report from 2025-26 to 2026-27

The Board approved a proposed net increase in capital expenditure for 2026/27 to reflect the carryover and associated rescheduling of the Capital Works Program, noting a full reconciliation project by project will be carried out as part of the development of the Corporate Plan budget for 2027/28.

11 Discussion Papers

11.1 East Grampians and Mininera Rural Pipeline Project

An update on the progress of the project was provided to Board. Contractor, Mitchell Water Australia has completed all the East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project pipeline installation and testing, with all pipelines commissioned and supplying customers. For the Mininera project, 53 km of pipe has been installed in Zone 5.

11.2 Price Submission Consultancy Assessment

Confirmation was provided to the Board that the price submission consultancy proposal aligns with GWMWater's 2028–2033 Price Submission engagement requirements and represents value for money.

11.3 Consultative Committee and Reference Group Meetings

The Board noted the update on the Wimmera-Glenelg Water Resource Assessment provided by the Storage Manager on 4 September 2026 and acknowledged the next Customer and Stakeholder Workshop to be held at the Horsham Golf Club on Friday 9 October 2026.

11.4 GWMWater Community Panel – Recruitment of Independent Chair

The Board was briefed on the proposed process for recruiting and appointing an Independent Chairperson for GWMWater's Community Panel. The role will lead the Community Panel and provide independent oversight of its deliberations in support of the development of GWMWater's 2028–2033 Price Submission.

12 Correspondence

Noted.

13 Documents for Signing Under Seal

Noted.

14 Documents Signed Under Delegated Authority

Noted.

15 General Business

The Board discussed Teddington Reservoir and Stuart Mill water supply arrangements, Farm Frites development, the Western Sustainable Water Strategy review and updated ESC guidance on operational efficiency incentive arrangements.

16 Meeting Feedback

Noted.

17 Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2026.

DISCLAIMER:
This is a summary record of the Ordinary Board Meeting held 16 September 2026 provided for information only as meeting minutes will not be confirmed until the November 2026 meeting.