

Summary of the Ordinary Board Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2026

80 Collins Street, Melbourne and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Present:

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

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

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 the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be present.

2 Apologies

Director Michelle Jackson

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

3.1 Register of Interests

Noted.

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 months ending June and July 2026.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board confirmed the minutes of the Board Meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2026, as circulated.

6 Action List Update from Previous Minutes

Noted.

7 Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on recent water sector forums, including discussion on the Helen Silver Review, artificial intelligence, pricing regulation, project funding and broader water sector priorities.

An ESG Thought Leadership Forum hosted by VicWater on 13 August 2026 was also attended, which provided an opportunity to consider current sector discussion on environmental, social and governance matters.

Water corporation Chairs met with the newly appointed Minister for Water, Michaela Settle MP on 18 August 2026, with discussion including water security and regional water matters. The Minister's understanding of regional issues, including rural pipeline projects, was evident.

8 Non-Executive Director's Reports and Insights

The Board noted that artificial intelligence is a current area of focus for AICD, with resources available to support Directors, and raised the importance of Directors understanding AI while maintaining appropriate human oversight and judgement.

9 Presentations

9.1 Price Submission Update

A presentation was provided on GWMWater's preparation for its 2028-2033 price submission, including the approach to customer and stakeholder engagement, affordability, service priorities and future investment decisions. The Board noted that customer feedback will be an important part of shaping the submission before it is lodged in September 2027.

10 Decision Papers (Confidential)

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:

- Reported on DEECA's engagement program for the Western Sustainable Water Strategy, including sessions held at Edenhope and Pomonal.
- Provided an update on engagement with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, including discussion on the delegate appointment process.
- Reported on investigations into point of use and point of entry treatment technologies, noting discussions with IWN to explore funding a trial using the technology.
- Provided an update from the Managing Director Forum held 6 August 2026, including discussion on water sector structure, industry efficiency opportunities, the ESC Guidance Paper and the review of the Essential Services Commission Act.
- Noted recent Victorian Government ministerial appointments relevant to the region, including Michaela Settle as Minister for Rural and Regional Development, Agriculture and Water, and Martha Haylett Member for Ripon as Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development.
- Advised of the Essential Services Commission's launch of the Getting to Fair: Advancing Equity Strategy and accompanying First Nations Self-Determination Framework which will be referenced in our engagement with Traditional Owners.
- Provided an update on the 2028 Water Price Review Draft Guidance Paper, with the final paper expected to be released in September 2026.

- Reported on media enquiries regarding detection of Benomyl in raw water storages and GWMWater's response, including confirmation detections were significantly below Australian Drinking Water Guideline health limits and have been at or below the limit of detection for the past four years.
- Noted GWMWater's participation in the IWN Innovation Conference held in Melbourne on 27 July 2026, including contributions from Nick Mumford and Will Taylor on innovation leadership and the Donald Community Battery project.
- Reported on the Kaniva drinking water celebration held on 29 June 2026 to recognise completion of the upgrade to a fully treated drinking water supply.
- Reported on operational impacts from wet weather, including a controlled wet weather discharge from the Horsham wastewater treatment plant to the Wimmera River.
- Advised GWMWater lodged a submission on the draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy and is continuing discussions with DEECA on key policy issues.

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 July 2026.

10.3 Murrayville Groundwater Management Area Sale Process

The Board approved the proposed Murrayville Groundwater Management Area sale process. An Expression of Interest process will commence in September, remaining open until November 2026.

11 Decision Papers

11.1 Asset Revaluation – Infrastructure Assets; Land and Buildings

The Board deferred consideration of the draft infrastructure, land and buildings asset valuation report pending release of the final valuation report from Valuer-General Victoria.

11.2 Internal Auditor Appointment

The Board approved a 12-month extension of the current internal auditor's contract.

11.3 Consultant for Price Submission Engagement and Customer Research

The Board approved the appointment of a consultant to assist in undertaking customer research and engagement support services for the development of GWMWater's 2028-2033 Price Submission.

12 Discussion Papers

12.1 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 pipeline installation on the East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project with final commissioning for Zones 2-4 expected in August. For the Mininera project, approximately 42.5km of pipe and 5.2km of horizontal directional drilling has been completed.

12.2 Lake Lonsdale Dam Safety

The Board discussed the dam safety risk status at Lake Lonsdale and proposed steps for further assessment and future community and stakeholder engagement.

12.3 Consultative Committee and Reference Group Meetings

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

12.4 GWMWater Traditional Owner Working Group Update

An update on Traditional Owner engagement activities.

12.5 Annual Operating Plan for Wimmera-Mallee System Headworks 2026-27

The Board noted the Draft 2026-27 Annual Operating Plan for the Wimmera-Mallee system headworks, prepared in consultation with entitlement holders and key stakeholders, and noted that the Board will be kept informed of revisions as the season evolves.

13 Correspondence

Noted.

14 Documents for Signing Under Seal

Noted.

15 Documents Signed Under Delegated Authority

Noted.

16 General Business

Updates were provided on the ‘new look’ GWMWater website now available, and the future operation and asset condition of the Stawell, Ararat, Halls Gap and Pomonal Water Treatment Plants ahead of the current operational contract ending in December 2026.

17 Meeting Feedback

Noted.

18 Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 16 September 2026.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a summary record of the Ordinary Board Meeting held 19 August 2026 provided for information only as meeting minutes will not be confirmed until the September 2026 meeting.