

4 March 2009

Outlined below is a summary of the March 2009 Goulburn Valley Water Board Meeting.

Inspection Kilmore Water Treatment Plant (WTP)

Directors and the executive management team inspected the fire damage at the Kilmore WTP, which was the most critical GVW asset that was damaged during the "Black Saturday" fires. The fires destroyed the control room at the Kilmore WTP, which contained electrical switchboards, control systems and chemical dosing components.

The following items were presented to the Board to approve

Reinstatement Works Following Bushfires

As a result of the bushfires the Board approved three unbudgeted items to be added to the 2008/2009 capital works program. These were:

- replacement of approximately 600m of pipeline near Steavenson Falls at Marysville;
- replacement of the Marysville Raw Water Supply Main;
- replacement of the Kilmore WTP control building.

Contributions to Bushfire Affected Communities

Goulburn Valley Water has been impacted by the bushfires with considerable damage to its infrastructure resulting in significant recovery costs. Over 500 customer properties have been damaged or lost and GVW's reparation costs are estimated to be in excess of \$2M. Goulburn Valley Water resources have been, and continue to be stretched during the incident response and ongoing incident recovery phase.

The Board considered a number of principles for contributions towards the bushfire affected communities. A number of key principles were adopted which give priority to community facilities and customers with properties destroyed by the fires.

Consideration of the Corporation's 20 Year Infrastructure Investment Program.

The Board approved its Infrastructure Investment Program which details the programmed expenditure for projects over the next 20 years, and including the 2009/2010 Capital Works Program.

Approving Structures over Corporation Works

The Board approved amendments to the policy for Structures Over Corporation Works. This amendment will permit sewer relining as an

option for applications seeking to erect a structure over Corporation assets.

The Board noted the following reports

Bushfire Damage and Response

On Saturday 7 February 2009 bushfires devastated areas around Kilmore, Wandong/Heathcote Junction, Broadford, Buxton and Marysville. The Corporation's emergency response was rapid and appropriate. Most importantly, all staff demonstrated a capacity and willingness to do the necessary work in the minimum amount of time.

Bushfire Recovery– Billing and Collections

The impact of the bushfires on our customers' properties and the Corporation's billing and collection process was discussed at length. The Board agreed that it is important to ensure that the whole water industry has a consistent approach in relation to billing of customers who have suffered losses as a result of the bushfires. The Corporation is waiting on a direction from the State government in relation to these customers.

Expansion of the WELS Scheme

The Board was informed about the proposed expansion of the Federal Government's Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme and water industry submissions about the proposed changes.

The WELS scheme requires certain water using products to be labelled for water efficiency, enabling Australian consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. The WELS scheme regulator is considering an expansion of the scheme to include additional products and setting minimum water efficiency standards for some products. The additional products under consideration include combined washer-dryers (which use water in the drying cycle), evaporative air conditioners, instantaneous gas hot water heaters, hot water circulators and domestic irrigation controllers. Minimum water efficiency standards are being considered for taps, showers, urinals, clothes washers and dishwashers, and tighter minimum standards for toilets.

For more information on the Board Meeting Update please contact Danny Hogan – General Manager Corporate Services on 03 5832 0443 or email dannyh@gvwater.vic.gov.au