

# Strategic Advisory Committee



July 2016  
#4209553

## What is GMW doing?

Goulburn-Murray Water is partnering with our region's community and industry leaders to help shape the future of water delivery in northern Victoria.

We have established a 14-member strong team making up the Strategic Advisory Committee, to provide advice our Board on issues that affect our farmers and industry.

Led by GMW Chairman Sarah Scales, the new Strategic Advisory Committee is a partnership with the GMW's stakeholders.

It ensures industry and community leaders are working together for a sustainable future for GMW and the entire region. It builds on the voice of GMW's customers provided by its Water Services Committees (WSC).

## Why are we doing this?

GMW is Australia's largest rural water corporation, supplying water to urban water corporations who supply towns and businesses, irrigators who grow food, and the environmental water holder who protects waterway health. It also manages many recreational amenities at its storages.

The region is home to some of the county's most innovative farmers and demand for their high quality produce is growing domestically and internationally.

Despite this, the region continues to be challenged by ongoing dry conditions and the impacts of climate change, which are having an effect on the amount of water available for agriculture.

GMW has a role to play in supporting northern Victoria to attract growth in industry, growth in our communities and growth in our economies.

## What will this achieve for our farmers, for industry and northern Victorian communities?

For farmers, our Strategic Advisory Committee provides benefits. It's about GMW, industry, community, local government and key organisations joining forces to plan and advocate for the future of our water delivery system.

GMW is committed to delivering our customers services that meet their needs.

We're also committed to helping our customers increase on-farm production and a key part of this is ensuring we have a sustainable organisation.

This is why we are working with our stakeholders – the leaders in the agricultural industry and in our communities – to make the right decisions for the future.

It is about ensuring we are all moving in the same direction, to attract growth in industry, growth in our communities and growth in our economies.

## Our stakeholders

### Who are our stakeholders?

Our stakeholders are people and groups who have a shared interest in agricultural issues, growth and production in northern Victoria and who can help us achieve better outcomes for our customers and in turn the wider region.

Recently, GMW undertook work to identify our stakeholders and to learn more about them, including who they are, what is important to them and how we can use their diverse experience, knowledge and perspectives to work together to achieve outcomes for our customers and the broader community.

We consulted with GMW staff, our Water Services Committees and other water corporations through this process.

### What are our stakeholders telling us?

GMW has identified some areas for improvement.

Our stakeholders, including our customers, have told us that GMW needs talk to them about the 'big picture' strategic issues.

These groups want to partner with GMW as strategic partners, to come together to solve regional problems, and we have listened.

The establishment of the Strategic Advisory Committee is one way we're putting this into action.

We are providing a forum for GMW and its stakeholders to engage and collaborate on shared areas of interest.

# Strategic Advisory Committee



## Our Committee

### What is the Strategic Advisory Committee?

The Strategic Advisory Committee provides advice to our Board on issues that affect our business, member's business and in turn, northern Victoria.

The Committee also plays a key role in helping GMW to set and shape its strategic direction.

The Strategic Advisory Committee brings together a number of GMW's stakeholders to provide a means and channel for two-way communication and collaboration between GMW and its stakeholders.

Led by GMW Board Chair, Sarah Scales, the Committee provides informed advice to the Board on a range of issues affecting the wider agricultural sector, bringing together various ideas and expertise to understand each other's challenges and overcome them together.

It is one way GMW is engaging with its stakeholders in a meaningful way and embedding this practice into its everyday business.

Understanding our customer and stakeholder interests and concerns, and having the benefit of their experience in our planning process, will enable GMW to achieve outcomes well beyond what we can achieve by ourselves.

This supports GMW to play a role in further creating opportunities to increase agricultural production and a sustainable future for northern Victoria.

### Who is a part of the Committee?

Our committee was selected through a nominations process and appointed by our Board.

With a number of impressive applications, appointing the 14-member committee was challenging, but we've appointed a fantastic mix of leaders from across our region and from different industries. This demonstrates the level of interest among our stakeholder groups to have an input into our business and commit to working together on the future of GMW and our region.

The regional leaders represented on the Strategic Advisory Committee include:

- Bonlac Supply Company Chairman - Tony Marwood
- Regional Development Victoria, Regional Director Hume - Matt Nelson
- Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority Chief Executive Officer - Chris Norman
- Committee for Greater Shepparton Chief Executive Officer - Sam Birrell

- McPherson Media Group Editor-In-Chief - Ross McPherson
- St Germain's aquaculturist - Jennifer Savage
- Kagome Operations Manager - Nick Raleigh
- Goulburn Valley orchardist - Peter Hall
- Torrumbarry Water Services Committee member - Andrew Leahy
- Kiewa/Mitta Mitta/Upper Murray Water Services Committee chair - Peter Serpell
- Loddon Valley Water Services Committee member - Chris Harrison
- Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer - Emma Bradbury
- Murray River Group of Council's representative and Loddon Shire Mayor- Neil Beattie
- Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperation Board - Josh Atkinson

### What sort of issues or topics will they provide advice on?

GMW and our stakeholders have identified shared areas of interest to collaborate on.

Through our Committee, we will collaborate with our stakeholders on the 'big picture' issues which affect the wider region and agricultural sector so we can achieve the best outcomes. These include regional development and sustainability, drought, water availability and pricing.

Understanding our customer and stakeholder interests and concerns and having the benefit of their experience in our planning will enable GMW to achieve outcomes well beyond what we can achieve by ourselves.

### Is the Strategic Advisory Committee different to the Connections and Water Services Committees?

The Strategic Advisory Committee is a separate advisory group to the Water Services Committee (WSC), who primarily represent GMW customers, and the Connections Project Stakeholder Committee who will provide advice to the Project Control Group on issues relating to landowner and community engagement to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

However, to truly reflect GMW's stakeholders, three WSC representatives sit on the Strategic Advisory Committee. This provides linkages between Committees and ensures the Board is receiving holistic advice, which reflects a broad cross-section of GMW stakeholder partners.