

## **APRIL 2009 –NORTH EAST WATER BOARD MEETING**

### **Corporate Plan**

The Board endorsed the organisation's 2009-10 Corporate Plan.

### **Eskdale water supply Business Case**

The Board was presented with the preliminary Business Case for a new water supply at Eskdale.

The town's current supply, which is run by a private trust, will cease operation in November 2009. Since February 2009, when the town almost ran dry and was supplemented by tankered water, North East Water, the Towong Shire and the local community has been working to develop a long-term solution.

A community survey showed overwhelming support for a new supply, and significant support for a \$2,000-per-lot owner contribution.

Following some discussion around the uniqueness of the case, the short project timeframe and pricing principles, the Board expressed its intention to proceed with the project and endorsed the progression of an accordingly modified Business Case to the May 2009 meeting.

### **Tungamah wastewater Business Case**

The Board was also presented with the preliminary Business Case for a new wastewater service for Tungamah to replace the current system of mostly septic tanks.

There was some discussion around funding arrangements in terms of the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, and landholder and Moira Shire Council contributions.

In preparing a final Business Case, Management was asked to clarify:

- Disposal options to maximise the value of the resource
- Community willingness to pay for on-property costs of the scheme
- Moira Shire Council willingness to contribute to the cost of the project.

### **Baranduda odour issues**

Management advised the Board that the trade waste load into the plant that caused the odours had been identified and that negotiations between North East Water and the trade waste customer concerned had resulted in an agreed process of remedial actions and penalties.

The trade waste customer no longer receives the offending waste and in future will conduct its own batch sampling and analysis in addition to that performed by North East Water.

### **Drought response status**

Management presented the Board with proposed changes to water restrictions for the Murray system towns.

The Board debated the proposal to reduce to Stage 1 restrictions in the Murray towns over winter (with the exception of Yarrawonga, Tungamah, Devenish, St James and Bundalong), and considered the following:

- How much the community understands how restrictions are applied in different systems
- The impact on customers of the timing and frequency of restrictions changes, and
- The implication for the 2009-10 Corporate Plan associated with the potential need to purchase additional bulk water.

The Board endorsed the change in restriction levels for the winter period, with a formal review in September 2009.