

FEBRUARY 2009 –NORTH EAST WATER BOARD MEETING

Drought response

Management provided the Board with an overview of its Drought Response Program, with a focus on drought preparedness, trigger levels for restrictions and water savings observed under restriction levels.

Drought Response Manager, Terry Wisener, also presented information on the process for implementing restrictions and the timeframes required to implement changes in the level of restriction.

Eskdale water supply

In early February the media reported that the Eskdale community's privately run water supply had run dry. North East Water, along with the Towong Shire, responded by supplying tankered water to the township until a solution could be found.

North East Water doesn't currently supply Eskdale with a water supply, but the community has been identified as a priority under the Victorian Government's *Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program*. The Corporation is working with the Towong Shire to progress an upgraded supply. The upgrade is to address both the quality and quantity limitations of the current system, which has been significantly impacted by the prolonged drought.

EPA Corporate Licence

The Board commended the development of the EPA Corporate Licence, which replaces the 18 existing separate wastewater treatment plant discharge licences. Board members noted the commitment of both North East Water and the Environment Protection Authority to improving strategic relationships and environmental outcomes.

Chiltern pipeline

Managing Director, Craig Heiner, told the Board he anticipated treated water from Wodonga to reach Chiltern and Barnawartha within the next month.

The Corporation has built a pipeline to supply these towns from the Wodonga system. Chiltern in particular will benefit from the increased water security associated with the Murray system.