

2019-20

Annual Report



VicWater
BETTER TOGETHER

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Joint report from the Chair & Chief Executive Officer

While 2019-20 has provided many challenges, it has also been a year where VicWater has been able to bring a number of new supports to its members across the five critical result areas of its Strategic Plan 2018-2023:

- Influence policy and regulation
- Connect leaders and facilitate collaboration
- Be a catalyst for thought leadership and action
- Support the sector for the ever-changing future
- Galvanise resources for collective value.

As part of our engagement with members, and to determine the industry priorities of the Strategic Plan, the CEO visited each of the water businesses during 2019. It was clear from our members that one of the most important areas for VicWater to focus upon early was a facilitated process to enable consideration of policy and regulation in areas of greatest significance to the industry requiring our influence. In response, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was established with representative expertise from across our sector. Seven policy priorities and respective position statements have so far been progressed by the committee with engagement of over 70 industry representatives during a Policy Forum held in June 2020. The importance of this initiative cannot be overstated as we seek to represent a consistent industry perspective and focus our efforts to the priorities determined by our members.

Throughout the year, we have supported the industry in the management of regulations and making representations on the essential nature of our industry and their efforts to maintain services throughout COVID-19. As the initial impacts of the pandemic were felt, in March through to May, VicWater provided guidance to government on the consistent and progressive nature of our industry to support customers experiencing hardship and to continue their services in a safe and supportive manner.

Taking a strategic perspective, we commenced a milestone study that considers the important levers to maintain the overall economic sustainability of our industry. This work continues throughout 2020, culminating in a clear understanding of the key drivers and levers that will sustain our services to customers throughout a vastly changing operating environment over the next 30 years.

In September 2019, the Minister for Water appointed new and returning directors to the boards of water corporations and catchment management authorities. The same month involved the VicWater Annual Conference, attracting over 180 delegates engaging with thought leaders on topics of critical industry importance. VicWater also worked with DELWP to hold a two-day director development forum in March 2020. The feedback solicited from attendees of these events revealed these events were effective in assisting new directors to assimilate to their strategic and operating environments while forming strong alliances

across the sector. The impact of these events has informed VicWater's decision to support ongoing director development to its members and we are now in the planning phase for a series of industry events for 2020-21.

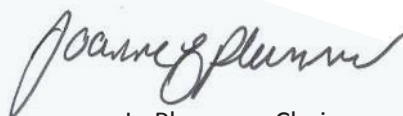
The year has also seen the manifestation of industry efforts in diversity and inclusion, noting VicWater's support for Pride in Water and the Women in Water Directors Network. The Public Sector Commission's State of the Public Sector 2018-19 report released in May 2020 revealed the success of these initiatives and others as the water industry bears significantly higher levels of engagement, satisfaction and leadership support compared to the public sector overall.

Our industry has shone through this difficult year. Impacted by drought and bushfires and then the pandemic, our members have worked collaboratively and in step with government agencies to maintain services, support their workforces and reach out to communities in need. The lessons learnt from these events are being used to streamline our procedures and continue to build a resilient sector that is comparable on a global scale.

VicWater has been privileged to work alongside our members during such a changeable year. While we could not anticipate the fluctuations that prevailed throughout 2019-20, through member support we successfully supported our industry to come together to collectively work through critical challenges, maintained a focus on matters of strategic importance and adapted as a team to a transforming operating environment. We do this with a small and productive staff and a progressive and supportive board.

Financially, we finished the year in a strong position. Owing to careful management of and innovative approach to member subscriptions, reduced office expenditure, and increased sponsorship income from our events, VicWater reached a profit of \$133,927. This has prepared us well in facing ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19 and the global economy.

The following pages of this report outline our main achievements over 2019-20. And the corollary of these achievements is an industry Better Together. VicWater continues to pursue this ambition with focus and enthusiasm. We deeply thank our members and associates for joining us in this pursuit.



Jo Plummer, Chair



Peter Morison, CEO

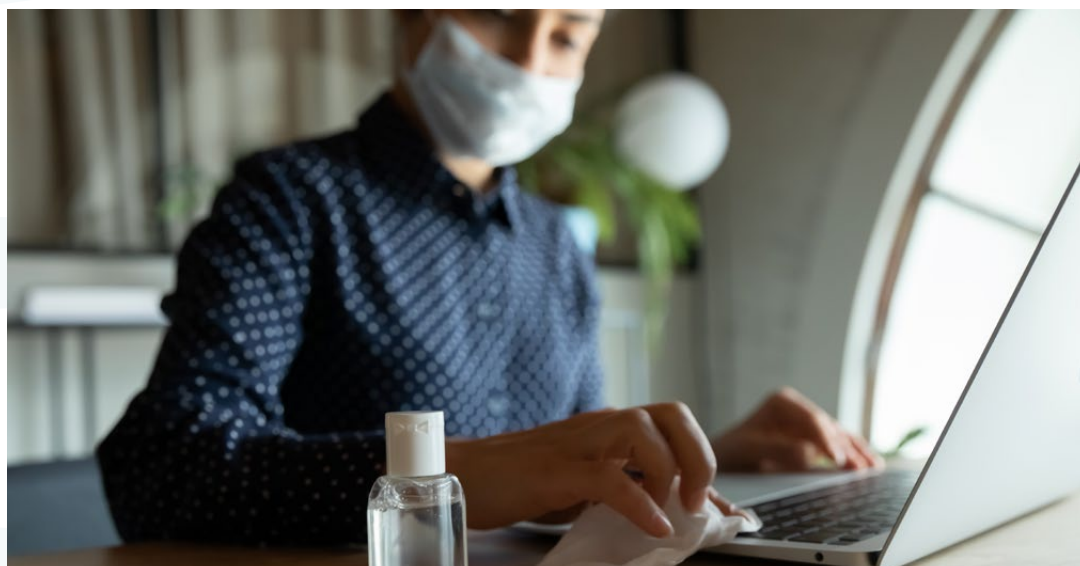
COVID-19 Industry Support

2019-20 has been a challenging year for all Victorians, the water sector included. Through the devastating summer bushfires followed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, VicWater's role has been to coordinate industry response where needed, complement communication across the sector and provide support and assistance to help our members maintain operations and performance.

From March 2020, COVID-19 has galvanised VicWater's efforts to support members in driving consistent programs and messages on customer hardship and voicing the sector's needs and capabilities in relation to the essential services that it provides. As government restrictions began to be introduced in Victoria and nationally during March, we worked with our members to ensure that water was recognised as an essential service. This was critical to maintaining provision of service to customers and addressing initial uncertainty around issues such as the status of major construction projects, use of interstate contractors and gaining access to private property.

We coordinated information and the preparation of a customer support statement shared with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Essential Services Commission (ESC), outlining the targeted support our members offer their customers and seeking government assistance to expedite that support (e.g. automated concession registration and Utility Relief Grant backlog removal). We also supported the Managing Directors in modelling the impact of current and additional hardship programs through compilation of financial data from all water corporations.

VicWater continues to support members as they navigate through the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19 and do their part to assist the economic recovery of the state while looking after the most vulnerable in our community.



Strategic Projects

VicWater policy platform

VicWater's Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) is taking a leading role in shaping our approach to policy and advocacy in the future. During 2019-20, the PAC has been formulating a series of policy position statements on key strategic issues affecting the water sector. A major milestone for the PAC was the inaugural VicWater Policy Forum on 17 and 18 June 2020. The forum was attended by a diverse range of industry experts, board members and senior leaders from across the industry and considered policy issues relating to economic regulation, environmental stewardship and the water sector role in the circular economy, among other things.

Future sector economics

With our members' support, in 2020 we commenced a project of work across the sector to identify the economic challenges that we face and the major gaps that are evident between current reality and the optimal economic framework. The output of this work will inform pricing submissions and discussions with customers and stakeholders on the future of our sector.



Policy and Regulation

Water corporations are subject to a range of regulatory obligations, covering financial, environmental, health and governance matters. VicWater has a multi-faceted role to reduce red tape and ensure our members can focus on providing services to their communities, including:

- negotiating the implementation of obligations with regulators
- shaping future policy settings through submissions and policy reform processes
- coordinating industry projects that ensure a lower-cost and consistent approach to meeting obligations.

Below are a sample of VicWater policy and regulatory outcomes in 2019-20.

Finance

VicWater's Financial Issues Steering Committee (FISC), with representation from 10 Victorian water corporations, oversees work on a number of finance-related issues that impact the industry. During 2019-2020 the FISC has undertaken the following projects:

- **Asset revaluation:** A statutory water industry asset valuation occurs every five years. Poor outcomes in the past have clearly demonstrated the need for a strong VicWater role to manage key deliverables with regulators. In preparation for the coming 2021 valuation, VicWater has coordinated an update to the water industry asset valuation methodology and negotiated key deliverables and milestones with the Valuer General Victoria. Simple things like requiring valuation firms return data to water corporations in the form in which it is submitted saves significant time and effort for water corporations to import updated values into fixed asset registers.
- **Puddle model financial account:** VicWater publishes the Puddle model financial account for water corporations every year. The model account streamlines financial reporting, by providing consistent and fit for purpose financial disclosures for water corporation needs. The Victorian Auditor General's Office conducts audits of water corporation financial reports every year and provides input to the preparation of the model account, thus avoiding unnecessary issues and inconsistencies during the subsequent financial audit. In 2020, VicWater commenced a process to appoint a new service provider for the Puddle account, overseen by a selection panel drawn from water corporations and informed by a member survey.

Construction procurement

When a new whole of government approach to construction procurement was initiated in 2018-19 there were significant implications for the water sector. VicWater's initial focus was on negotiating reduced red tape during the initial implementation and ensuring coordination of obligations across the water sector and with the Department of Treasury and Finance. The focus has shifted to industry projects that ensure a lower cost and consistent approach to meeting obligations. A significant change under the new government policy requires water corporations to use 'compliant' contracts for construction projects. In response to member feedback, VicWater is coordinating the development of a standard water industry major projects contract. This project will reduce the compliance burden on individual water corporation, whilst maintaining flexibility for their varying operational contexts.

High Usage and Leakage Allowance Guide

Urban water corporation offer generous bill rebates for unexplained high usage or leaks. VicWater received member feedback that the existing industry guidance needed to be updated to bring it into line with contemporary customer and regulator expectations, and reduce the complexity and difficulty of resolving complaints. In 2020 VicWater formed an industry working group to update the industry guidance, in collaboration with regulators.

Recreational access

When the government announced an election commitment to increase recreational access opportunities at drinking water storages, VicWater recognised an opportunity to leverage additional value from water infrastructure, but this needs to be balanced with safety and the protection of public drinking water supplies. VicWater worked closely with DELWP to develop a transparent framework for assessing the cost and time for necessary upgrades to water treatment, access and safety infrastructure among other things to ensure decisions regarding recreational access can be made on a consistent basis.

Circular economy

The Victorian water industry has exemplified the principles of the circular economy since its inception. Yet, when government initiated a new circular economy policy, there was little consideration of non-solid waste streams. VicWater worked hard to broaden perspectives on the circular economy to include the water industry's role in biosolids, waste to energy and composting. A series of water industry case studies were subsequently incorporated into the Victorian Government Circular Economy Discussion Paper.

Environmental stewardship

Victoria is amidst an overhaul of the environmental regulatory framework. This has significant consequences for core areas of water sector business such as sewerage, biosolids and recycled water. VicWater has been closely involved in these reforms since the 2015-16 independent inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). VicWater's 2019-20 activities include technical policy submissions on the draft subordinate legislation and draft licence conditions, and completing an emerging contaminant risk assessment at 100 wastewater treatment plants.

Recycled water

During 2020, VicWater finalised major improvements to recycled water regulations as part of the recycled water guidelines review. These include streamlined audit obligations, fewer and more risk-based scheme approvals and reduced red tape. VicWater negotiated funding from DELWP to prepare industry guidance that will clarify detailed technical obligations on matters such as audit and approvals, to be completed during 2021.

Land use planning

Weak land use planning around critical sewerage assets and the subsequent erosion of buffers – leading to expensive upgrades to reduce odour or noise, or in the worst case to entire closure and movement of an asset – is a major issue for water corporations and a significant financial burden for customers. VicWater was a significant player in separate government inquiry recommendations (during 2015 and 2016) to improve buffer controls, and has stayed the course since that time to advocate for policy change. The draft buffer overlay and clause 53.10 (of the Victorian planning scheme) reforms are the result of steady progress with DELWP over four years. In 2020, VicWater is finalising the details of policy instruments that aim to permanently address encroachment problems.



Carbon emissions reduction and offsets

All water corporations are taking significant steps to reduce, avoid or offset carbon emissions. Carbon offsets offer a superficially simple and convenient option to achieve emission reduction objectives. However, they are created from a diverse range of projects and require careful scrutiny to ensure they deliver genuine emissions reductions and do not generate negative social or environmental impacts. VicWater, in conjunction with Melbourne Water, developed industry guidance and decision-making support tools to help the sector navigate the complexities of sourcing carbon offsets. VicWater also prepared three industry submissions during 2019-20 on carbon emission-related topics, to the Victorian and Federal Governments. The focus of these submissions was on reducing red tape and streamlining reporting obligations associated with the Australian Emission Reduction Fund and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007.

ESC red tape reduction

In 2019-20 VicWater took advantage of a review of ESC customer codes to reduce red tape for the water industry. The outgoing customer code included a series of rigid obligations such as the requirement to send certain correspondence by registered mail. VicWater facilitated industry feedback to ensure the updated customer code provides for cheaper, more flexible and customer-centric approaches.

Plumbing

The plumbing industry plays a critical role in the delivery of our members' core products. Yet plumbing faults, particularly in relation to recycled water supplies, can cause significant cost and reputational damage to the water industry. During 2019, VicWater and DELWP reinvigorated a cross-government working group which has since streamlined approaches for managing emergencies and incidents, and improved coordination of data to facilitate more targeted recycled water plumbing inspections, particularly at higher risk sites such as schools.



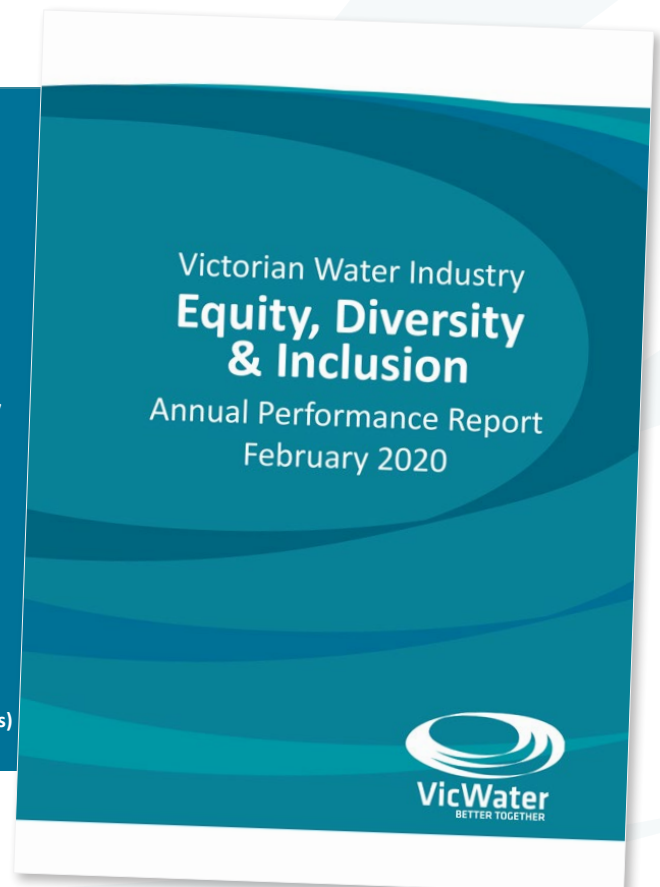
Diversity & Inclusion

Victorian Water Industry Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Annual Performance Report 2020

In February 2020 VicWater's Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC), comprising all 19 water corporations, produced the first Victorian Water Industry Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Annual Performance Report.

This report provides a snapshot for the 2019 calendar year of the sector's performance and progress against the collective target areas outlined in the Water Industry Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy 2018-2023 . The industry range (high and low figures) and industry average figure across all participating water corporations are provided for each target area, as well as a number of case studies which highlight the range of considered and innovative actions being taken by water corporations to improve diversity and inclusion in their workplaces.

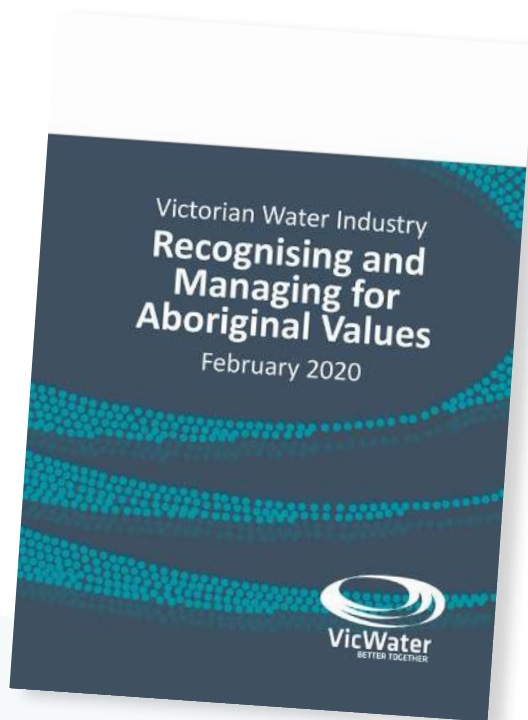
The report shows that, allowing for local differences between water corporations, overall the industry is on track to meet the collective targets over the remaining four years of the Strategy.



Victorian Water Industry Recognising and Managing for Aboriginal Values Report 2020

In February 2020, the DISC also produced the first Victorian Water Industry Recognising and Managing for Aboriginal Values Report. This report provides an overview of initiatives and activities that water corporations are undertaking to support Aboriginal inclusion, participation, engagement and employment in the sector, in line with the relevant actions and measures in Water for Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework.

The report shows that water corporations are making efforts to deepen their cultural awareness and build strong and meaningful relationships with Traditional Owner groups, so that the shared benefits of access, participation and inclusion can be realised for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.



Women in Water Directors Network

VicWater supports the Women in Water Directors Network (WWDN), established in 2018 to create a positive and enabling environment so women directors can thrive and be successful in the Victorian water industry.

During 2019-20 the WWDN held networking events at the VicWater Annual Conference in September 2019 and the director development forum in March 2020, featuring guest speakers and panel discussions on the challenges and opportunities that exist for women at all levels of the water sector. The WWDN also ran a mentoring program for women directors to build knowledge and connections, and to share valuable insights, advice and guidance with each other.



Pride in Water

Pride in Water is a network to connect and support LGBTIQ+ employees and their allies, so that everyone can feel safe, included and valued in the water industry regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

The soft launch of Pride in Water on Wear it Purple Day (30 August 2019) received support from all 19 water corporations, VicWater and DELWP. Following this success, Pride in Water attracted interest from public and private sector water organisations around Australia. VicWater has continued to provide support to Pride in Water through a number of events and activities including:

- A Co-Design Forum hosted at the VicWater offices on 18 October 2019 attended by 30 people from 25 organisations across five states.
- The first industry-wide contingent at the 25th annual Midsumma Pride March in St Kilda on 2 February 2020, attended by approximately 60 LGBTIQ+ water sector employees and allies.
- An online event to celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on 14 May 2020 attended by 160 people from the water industry across Australia and New Zealand and featuring an inspiring line up of speakers from the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Virtual coffee roulette sessions during June 2020 to help LGBTIQ+ employees and allies to stay connected and expand their networks during COVID-19.

Member Experience



2019 Annual Conference: 'Leadership Legacy 2035' – 12 & 13 September 2019

The 2019 VicWater Annual Conference was held at The Park in Albert Park on 12-13 September 2019, with an attendance of 180 delegates over the two days.

The conference program delivered a mix of professional leadership and water industry expertise. Keynote speakers included journalist and author Andrea Clarke, internationally recognised thought leader Gaia Grant and technology wizard Dr Catherine Ball.

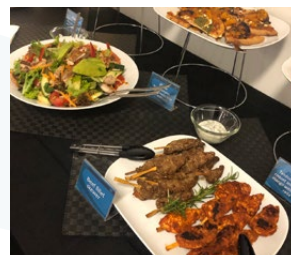
The Hon Lisa Neville, Minister for Water, was our special guest at the Annual Conference Dinner, where the annual WaterAid raffle raised \$2,115 to assist developing countries provide safe water and sanitation services.

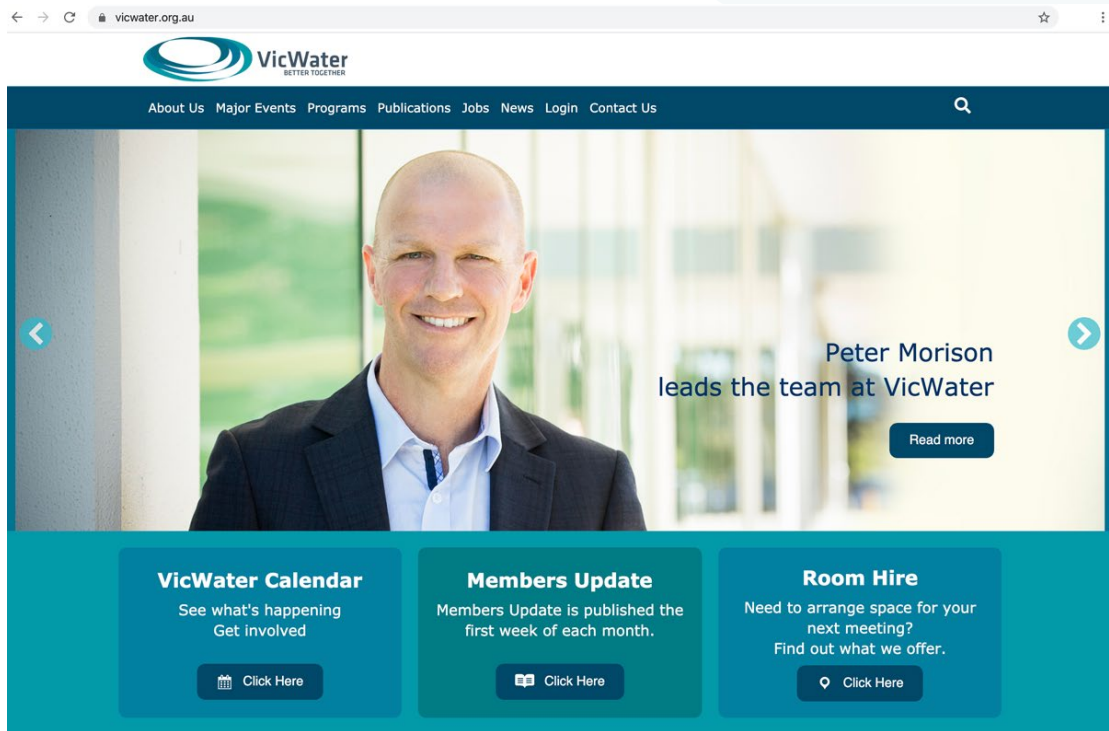


VicWater Workshop and Webinar Series

In early 2020 we launched our new workshop series, which we quickly converted into a webinar series when COVID-19 hit in March 2020. We partnered with a number of different organisations to provide opportunities for our members to learn and engage on a range of issues including:

- Workplace Manslaughter Laws workshop – in association with Maddocks
- Executive Safety Leadership training – in association with Leading Safety
- COVID-19 Legal Issues webinar – in association with DLA Piper
- Mental Health webinars – in association with Beyond Blue
- The Australian Economic Outlook webinar – in association with Treasury Corporation Victoria.





New VicWater brand launch and increased digital presence

In September 2019 we unveiled the new VicWater branding and logo, a stylised representation of water ripples incorporating the three rings of our membership (metro, regional and rural) united together into one strong identity – ‘Better Together’.

This was followed in April 2020 by the launch of our new website, built completely in-house. The new website is mobile-friendly and easy to navigate, with value-add features including a jobs board and improved member portal.

VicWater’s digital presence has also been enhanced through increased use of social media to promote VicWater and member news and events, with the number of followers on our LinkedIn account growing steadily to reach nearly 2,000 by 30 June 2020.

| Organic impressions: 1,887 Impressions | | Hide stats | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Organic stats | | | |
| Targeted to: All followers | | | |
| 1,887 Impressions | 14 Reactions | 8.9% Click-through rate | 1 Comment |
| 0 Shares | 168 Clicks | 9.7% Engagement rate | |

TOP: Screenshot of the new VicWater Website in April featuring a range of improvements including a Jobs Board
 BOTTOM: The Jobs Board has become a popular fixture on LinkedIn with high engagement rates every post



Financial Statements

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.

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BOARD'S REPORT

Your Board members submit the financial report of the Victorian Water Industry Association Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Board Members

The names of Board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Jo Plummer

Jeff Rigby (Ceased 14 November 2019)

David Ryan (Ceased 18 October 2019)

Cathy Scott (Ceased 9 December 2019)

Gabrielle Bell

Robyn McLeod

Naomi Cleary

Andrew Jeffers (Commenced 14 November 2019)

Peter Quigley (Commenced 14 November 2019)

David Schultz (Commenced 9 December 2019)

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to act as the peak organisation for the Victorian water industry.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of the activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus after providing for income tax for the 2020 financial year amounted to \$133,927 (2019: Deficit \$50,166).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board:



Signed:
Jo Plummer
Board Chair

Melbourne

Dated: 30 October 2020

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| | NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Event Registrations | | 343,559 | 373,486 |
| Interest Received | | 11,779 | 19,542 |
| Member subscriptions | | 900,532 | 805,482 |
| Special Projects | | 84,381 | 645,707 |
| Sponsorship | | 90,048 | 59,800 |
| Sales of Asset | | 1,134 | - |
| Employee Contributions | | 17,162 | 29,674 |
| JobKeeper Subsidy | | 18,000 | - |
| Government Stimulus | | 50,000 | - |
| Sundry Income | | 776 | - |
| Government Grants | | 1,712 | 45,685 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 1,519,083 | 1,979,376 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Accounting & Audit | | 14,500 | 14,600 |
| Advertising | | - | 965 |
| Bad Debts | | - | - |
| Bank Charges | | 604 | 697 |
| Computer Expenses | | 39,809 | 31,953 |
| Consultants & Contractors | | 1,000 | 112,370 |
| Depreciation | | 109,489 | 63,241 |
| General Expenses | | 14,192 | 28,154 |
| Insurance | | 31,533 | 30,235 |
| Maintenance & Office Expenses | | 8,690 | 9,018 |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses | | 8,899 | 29,666 |
| Office Rent | | - | 70,141 |
| Office Rent – Interest on Lease Liability | | 11,395 | - |
| Payroll Tax | 13 | - | 37,890 |
| Legals | | - | 11,999 |
| Printing & Stationery | | 1,443 | 862 |
| Postage & Couriers | | 593 | 101 |
| Power & Water | | 3,015 | 4,082 |
| Professional Development | | 1,792 | 8,954 |
| Sponsorship Expenses | | 14,993 | 14,988 |
| Staff Amenities | | 465 | 1,036 |
| Subscriptions & Fees | | 23,251 | 12,955 |
| Salaries & Related Expenditure | | 903,512 | 1,311,566 |
| Telephone Expenses | | 4,568 | 6,607 |
| Travel & Accommodation | | 4,068 | 6,033 |
| Venue Hire | | 187,345 | 221,429 |
| Loss on Sale of Motor Vehicle | | - | - |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 1,385,156 | 2,029,542 |
| Current surplus (deficit) before income tax | | 133,927 | (50,166) |
| Income Tax Expense | 1 (a) | - | - |
| Net current year surplus/(Deficit) | | 133,927 | (50,166) |
| Retained Surplus at the beginning of the financial year | | 708,172 | 758,338 |
| Retained Surplus at the end of the financial year | | 842,099 | 708,172 |

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| | NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash on Hand | 2 | 2,183,926 | 1,513,170 |
| Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors | 3 | 211,179 | 286,752 |
| Prepayments | | 53,780 | 59,688 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>2,448,885</u> | <u>1,859,610</u> |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 4 | 116,078 | 156,701 |
| Lease – Right to Use | | 320,958 | - |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>437,036</u> | <u>156,701</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>2,885,921</u> | <u>2,016,311</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Accounts Payable and Other Payables | 5 | 1,625,112 | 1,244,089 |
| Lease Liability | | 75,501 | - |
| Employee Provisions | 6 | 80,461 | 54,312 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>1,781,074</u> | <u>1,298,401</u> |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Employee Provisions | 6 | 5,999 | 9,738 |
| Lease Liability | | 256,749 | - |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>262,748</u> | <u>9,738</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | <u>2,043,821</u> | <u>1,308,139</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>842,099</u> | <u>708,172</u> |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | | |
| Retained Surplus | | 842,099 | 708,172 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS | | <u>842,099</u> | <u>708,172</u> |

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| | NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Receipts from Members' Fees and Subscriptions | | 900,532 | 805,482 |
| Interest Received | | 11,779 | 19,542 |
| Receipts from Special Projects, Seminars & Grants | | 1,757,296 | 1,594,581 |
| IWN Funding Received | 5 | 851,212 | 975,000 |
| Payments to Suppliers and Employees | | <u>(2,855,341)</u> | <u>(3,928,055)</u> |
| Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities | 10 | <u>665,478</u> | <u>(533,450)</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Proceeds from sale of property plant and equipment | | 8,846 | - |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | | <u>(3,568)</u> | <u>(17,582)</u> |
| Net Cash Used in Investing Activities | | <u>5,278</u> | <u>(17,582)</u> |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held | | 670,756 | (551,032) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year | | <u>1,513,170</u> | <u>2,064,202</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | 2 | <u>2,183,926</u> | <u>1,513,170</u> |

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012). The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs. They do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under s50-1 and s50-40 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Property, Plant and Equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(c) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Board reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

(d) Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Current Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

The liability for long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date is recognised in non-current liabilities, provided there is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. The liability is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on Australian corporate bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible the estimated future cash outflows.

(e) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

(h) Revenue and Other Income

The Association has applied AASB 15: *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) and AASB 1058 : *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118 : Revenue and AASB 1004 : Contributions . The details of accounting policies under AASB 118 and AASB 1004 have not been disclosed separately as there was no significant impact as a result of the change in accounting policy.

When the Association receives operating grant revenue it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance to AASB 15

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant;
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Association:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Company recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Capital Grants are recognised as income in profit or loss when or as the Company satisfies its obligations under terms of the grant.

Membership Income is recognised on a time basis over the period to which the membership applies.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon delivery of the service to the clients.

(i) Leases

The Association has adopted AASB 16: *Leases* retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying AASB 16 recognised at 1 July 2019. In accordance with AASB 16, the comparatives for the 2019 reporting period have not been restated.

The Association has recognised a lease liability and right-of-use asset for all leases where the Association is the lessee, with the exception of short-term and low value leases, which are recognised as an expense over the term of the lease. The lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments. The Association has used the 10 year government bond rate plus a 2% margin to discount the property lease payments, and the actual interest rate to discount motor vehicle lease payments. The right-of-use assets were measured at their carrying amount as if AASB 16 had been applied since the commencement date, but discounted using the interest rates indicated above.

The right-of-use asset comprises the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial indirect costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use asset is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest.

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(k) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| NOTE 2: CASH ON HAND | | |
| Cash on Hand | 50 | 50 |
| Citylink Tolls Top-Up | 54 | 129 |
| MYKI Top-up | 196 | - |
| Cash at Bank | 1,294,883 | 676,369 |
| Cash on Deposit - IWN Funding | 888,743 | 836,622 |
| | <u>2,183,926</u> | <u>1,513,170</u> |
| NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND OTHER DEBTORS | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | |
| Accruals | 50,000 | - |
| VicWater Member Fees | 111,179 | 136,752 |
| IWN | 50,000 | 150,000 |
| | <u>211,179</u> | <u>286,752</u> |
| NOTE 4: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | | |
| Furniture & Fittings - at cost | 148,066 | 148,066 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (55,986) | (43,617) |
| | <u>92,080</u> | <u>104,449</u> |
| Equipment - at cost | 127,188 | 123,944 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (103,190) | (84,727) |
| | <u>23,998</u> | <u>39,217</u> |
| Computer Software - at cost | 11,924 | 11,924 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (11,924) | (10,324) |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>1,600</u> |
| Motor Vehicle - at cost | - | 31,694 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | - | (20,259) |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>11,435</u> |
| Total property, plant and equipment | <u>116,078</u> | <u>156,701</u> |
| NOTE 5: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES | | |
| Trade Payables | | |
| VicWater | 272,208 | 187,936 |
| IWN | 115,608 | 96,970 |
| Income in Advance | 321,920 | 25,250 |
| Water Industry Procurement Project | - | 7,466 |
| IWN Funding* | 915,377 | 926,467 |
| | <u>1,625,113</u> | <u>1,244,089</u> |

* From 1 February 2016 the State of Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) co-signed the Association funding agreement for the "Intelligent Water Network Program" from South East Water. The amount of additional funding received in the 2020 year was \$851,212, of which \$915,377 is still to be expended.

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| NOTE 6: EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS | | |
| Current | | |
| Annual Leave Entitlements | 38,705 | 24,025 |
| Long Service Leave Entitlements | 41,756 | 30,287 |
| | 80,461 | 54,312 |
| Non-Current | | |
| Long Service Leave Entitlements | 5,999 | 9,738 |
| | 5,999 | 9,738 |
| NOTE 7: LEASING COMMITMENTS | | |
| Operating Lease Commitments | | |
| Being for rent of office | | |
| Payable - minimum lease payments: | | |
| - not later than 12 months | - | 71,214 |
| - later than 12 months but not later than five years | - | 355,384 |
| - later than five years | - | - |
| | - | 426,598 |

The office lease is a non-cancellable lease with a seven-year term payable monthly in advance. Contingent rental provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments be subject to increase by the 3.75% p.a. The current lease expires on 30 November 2024.

VicWater's leasing commitment has not changed, but accounting policy changes have altered the way the commitment is described in the accounts.

NOTE 8: CONTINGENCIES

In the opinion of the Board the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2020 (30 June 2019: None).

NOTE 9: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Board.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Reference is also made to Note 14 in regard to the impact of COVID-19 on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| NOTE | 2020 (\$) | 2019 (\$) |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| NOTE 10: FLOW INFORMATION | | |
| Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit/(Loss) after Income Tax | | |
| Profit/(Loss) after Income Tax | 145,341 | (50,166) |
| Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities | | |
| Non-cash flows in profit/(loss) | | |
| - Depreciation/Loss on asset scrapping | 36,819 | 63,241 |
| - Net (Gain)/Loss on Sale of Fixed Asset | (1,134) | - |
| Changes in assets and liabilities | | |
| - Increase/(Decrease) in Employee benefits | 18,009 | (98,064) |
| - Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables | 335,018 | (538,478) |
| - (Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors | 125,572 | 31,883 |
| - (Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments | 5,849 | 58,134 |
| | <u>665,478</u> | <u>(533,450)</u> |
| NOTE 11: IWN FUNDING | | |
| Cash Deposit Account (see Note 2) | | |
| Funds Carried Forward | 836,622 | 1,303,893 |
| Membership Fees Paid | 850,000 | 950,000 |
| GST Liability Paid | - | 25,000 |
| Member Contribution to Project | 70,807 | 75,000 |
| Interest Received | 8,203 | 17,774 |
| | <u>1,765,633</u> | <u>2,371,667</u> |
| Expenses | <u>876,890</u> | <u>1,535,045</u> |
| Balance at 30 June | <u>888,742</u> | <u>836,622</u> |
| IWN Liability Account (see Note 5) | | |
| Funds Carried Forward | 926,467 | 1,466,407 |
| Membership Fees Invoiced | 800,000 | 850,000 |
| GST Liability Paid | - | 25,000 |
| Member Contribution to Projects | 63,471 | 75,000 |
| Interest | 8,204 | 17,774 |
| | <u>1,798,142</u> | <u>2,434,182</u> |
| Expenses | <u>882,765</u> | <u>1,507,715</u> |
| Balance at 30 June | <u>915,377</u> | <u>926,467</u> |

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| NOTE | (\$) | (\$) |
| Reconciliation of IWN Cash held to IWN Liability Owing | | |
| Balance of IWN Cash Deposit Account at 30 June | 888,742 | 836,622 |
| Membership Fees not yet paid | 50,000 | 150,000 |
| Outstanding transfers for June | (23,365) | (60,155) |
| Balance of IWN Liability Account at 30 June | 915,377 | 926,467 |

NOTE 12: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The principal place of business of the association is:

Victorian Water Industry Association Inc.
Level 2, 466-468 Little Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

NOTE 13: PAYROLL TAX RELIEF

Coronavirus payroll tax relief – Businesses with annual Victoria wages under \$3 million had their payroll tax for the 2019-2020 financial year relieved.

Payroll tax was paid in accordance with Victorian Government requirements and subsequently refunded to VicWater as part of the Victorian Government's Coronavirus Payroll Tax Relief scheme.

NOTE 14: CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) IMPACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has developed rapidly in 2020, with a significant number of cases. Measures taken by various governments to contain the virus have affected economic activity. We have taken a number of measures to monitor and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, such as safety and health measures for our people (such as social distancing and working from home) and securing the supply of materials that are essential to our production process.

We will continue to follow the various government policies and advice and, in parallel, we will do our utmost to continue our operations in the best and safest way possible without jeopardising the health of our people.

Management has considered the consequences of COVID-19 and other events and conditions, and it has determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The impact of COVID-19 on future performance and therefore on the measurement of some assets and liabilities or on liquidity might be significant and might therefore require disclosure in the financial statements, but management has determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Due to COVID-19, the Association has:

- Introduced for 2020-21 only a member's events subscription model.
- Received government funding by way of the Victorian Government Payroll Tax relief scheme and the Federal Government's Cash Flow Boost and Jobkeeper scheme.
- Received a small grant from the City of Melbourne.

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| NOTE | (\$) | (\$) |
| Income specifically to COVID-19 is outlined below | | |
| Payroll Tax Relief | 11,564 | - |
| Cashflow Boost | 50,000 | - |
| JobKeeper | 18,000 | - |
| City of Melbourne Grant | 1,712 | - |
| | 81,276 | - |

VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL
POSITION OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

We, Jo Plummer and Naomi Cleary, being members of the Board of the Victorian Water Industry Association Incorporated, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate, give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Victorian Water Industry Association Incorporated during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2020.



Signed:
Jo Plummer
Board Chair



Signed:
Naomi Cleary
Director

Melbourne

Dated: 30 October 2020



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VICTORIAN WATER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Victorian Water Industry Association Inc (the association), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2020, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the members of the board on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2020 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the association for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stephen Wight
Director

Dated this 4th day of November, 2020

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd
101 West Fyans Street
Geelong, Victoria 3220

Board Members

Jo Plummer – Chair (appointed 10/12/15, Chair since 14/12/17)

With a portfolio of roles, Jo is an experienced board chair. Pertinent to the water industry, she first served as non-executive director for Central Highlands Water over a four year term before her appointment to the Barwon Water chair role in October 2015. Additionally, Jo's portfolio includes: Committee Chair, South Melbourne Market; Board Chair, Barwon Asset Solutions; Committee Deputy Chair, Geelong Regional Football; Committee Chair Geelong Advisory, Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD); Advisory Board Chair, Deakin Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Jo is also a highly experienced business strategist and has worked across large commercial corporate, small-medium enterprise, government and not-for-profit environments. Further, Jo holds an MBA, a Graduate Diploma in Retail Management and is a Fellow of the AICD.



Gabrielle Bell (appointed 14/6/18)

Gabrielle was appointed to the board of South East Water in 2015 and is also chair of the board of Iota Services Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of South East Water. Gabrielle is a corporate lawyer with broad experience working in Australia and Southeast Asia. During her legal career, she has specialised in general corporate advisory, including corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions and capital markets. She is an experienced non-executive director and is currently also serving on the boards of V/Line Corporation, Aware Super Pty Ltd and InLife Independent Living Ltd. Gabrielle was a director of Southern Rural Water from October 2012 to September 2015. Gabrielle holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) from the University of Melbourne and is a Graduate of the AICD.



Naomi Cleary (appointed 5/12/18)

Naomi has extensive experience in the property sector. She is the former Chief Financial Officer of the Elmstone Property Group, and a current director of Clearview Properties. Naomi is a director of Sport Climbing Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies and is a Graduate of the AICD and CPA Australia. Naomi was appointed to the Southern Rural Water board on 1 October 2015 and represents Southern Rural Water on the VicWater board.



Andrew Jeffers (appointed 14/11/19)

Andrew was appointed as Wannon Water's Managing Director in July 2015. Prior to this Andrew worked for 16 years with Wannon Water and 23 years within the Victorian water industry in various engineering and corporate roles, which has resulted in a deep understanding of the water industry and the business of a water corporation. Andrew understands water corporations exist for their customers and understands the importance and community value of providing high quality water, sewerage and trade waste services. He has a special interest in ensuring VicWater is effective in assisting its water corporation members create value for their customers and support the communities in which they operate as well as strategically positioning the water sector for future success. Andrew is a member of the Victorian Intelligent Water Network (IWN) Executive Committee, a Director of the Great South Coast Group and a Director of Beyond the Bell.



Robyn McLeod
(appointed 10/10/17)

Robyn has been a director of Melbourne Water since October 2015 and Monash Health since July 2019. She has held the positions of Independent Commissioner for Water Security in South Australia, National Director of Water at KPMG, and Executive Director of Major Projects, Water with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. She was Chief of Staff to the Victorian Energy Resources and Ports Minister, and an advisor to the Victorian Environment and Education Minister. Robyn has previously worked in higher education to industry, industrial relations, and secondary teaching. She is a Graduate of the AICD and completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at The Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Previous board positions include as an inaugural director of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and chair of the Risk and Audit Committee.



Peter Quigley
(appointed 14/11/19)

Peter is the Managing Director of Westernport Water and has significant leadership and management experience across complex environments such as government, utilities and health. Peter has held senior positions with several organisations, including Gippsland Primary Health Network, Latrobe City Council, Gippsland Water, Department of Human Services and Westernport Water. His qualifications and professional associations include an MBA, a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration, a Graduate of the AICD, Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Leadership Management and a Graduate of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program and Williamson Community Leadership Program.



David Schultz (appointed 9/12/19)

David is currently the Chair of South Gippsland Water after first being appointed to the board in October 2011. At Life Saving Victoria, David is the Chair of the Facilities Development Committee, a member of the Board Governance Committee and was a non-executive director during 2010 and 2018. Previously, David was the independent chair of the Bass Coast Shire audit committee. He has held various executive roles with GHD Global including Practice Leader of the management consulting practice and Senior Project Director Middle East. He is a Civil Engineer and a graduate member of AICD.



Jeff Rigby (ceased 14/11/19)

Jeff Rigby is Managing Director of Western Water (appointed in March 2019). Jeff has 35 years of experience working in the water industry in regional Victoria. Prior to joining Western Water, Jeff held the positions of Managing Director of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (2007-11) and Coliban Water (2012-19). Jeff is also a board director of Castlemaine Health and he is a member of the Group's Audit & Risk Committee. Jeff is a chartered professional engineering executive and chartered secretary.



David Ryan
(ceased 18/10/19)

David is Managing Director of SA Water. He was formerly the Managing Director of City West Water and has over 15 years' experience in the water sector. He is a Graduate of the AICD, a past director of VicWater and is a past President and director of the Institute of Water Administration.



Catherine Scott
(ceased 26/11/19)

Catherine is a highly experienced chairperson and non-executive director who has held directorships across a portfolio of organisations in transport, water, education and natural resources. In her prior professional career Catherine held senior positions in the investment banking and finance industries. She is a non-executive director and chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the Office of National Rail Safety Regulator, non-executive director of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and director of Goulburn Ovens TAFE. Catherine is a former director at Goulburn Valley Water and Goulburn-Murray Water. She has a Bachelor of Science (Hons), Bachelor of Commerce and is a Fellow at the AICD.



Staff Members

Peter Morison

– Chief Executive Officer

Peter joined VicWater as CEO in May 2019. A proven people and thought leader, Peter is an environmental and social scientist with over 25 years of experience working in water services, natural resource management, local governance, and as a consultant to various government organisations overseeing a diverse portfolio of land, natural resource and urban water management projects. Peter's professional qualification is in applied science, majoring in environmental management and environmental health. He also has a PhD in environmental policy and intergovernmental management. Peter holds an ongoing research collaboration as a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne's School of Ecosystem and Forest Services. He is a member of the Australian Water Association, the Alternative Technologies Association and Stormwater Australia.



Jo Lim

– Operations & Strategic Projects Manager

Jo joined VicWater in March 2019 in a 2IC role, with overall responsibility for the planning, implementation, control and reporting of industry-supported special projects. Jo started her career in the federal public service, before holding senior executive roles in the IT sector and management consultancy. Jo has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne, and a Diploma of Business and Diploma of Management from Swinburne University. Jo is a member of the Australian Water Association.



Fee Boucher

– Member Experience Manager

Fee joined VicWater in March 2019. Fee has a background in digital marketing and communications and has worked across a range of sectors including health, education, construction, mining, local government, manufacturing and retail. Fee is responsible for leading the member interface components of the VicWater Communication Strategy to ensure quality communication services are provided to all VicWater members. Her role includes media, brand, communications, digital, social media and event management. Fee has a Bachelor of Graphic Design as well as a Diploma in Digital Marketing.



James Cleaver

– Policy & Regulation Manager

James joined VicWater in May 2014. He is responsible for organising a number of VicWater committees and coordinating submissions on a range of policy areas. James has previously worked at the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) as the Executive Officer to the Chief Executive, Wendy Craik. Whilst at the MDBC, James led the completion of the first ever Basin-wide audit of storages and water availability in response to the extreme drought conditions in 2007-08. James's most recent role prior to joining VicWater was with the Municipal Association of Victoria where he was responsible for transport, water and financial hardship policy areas. James has a Bachelor of Public Policy and Management (Hons) and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.



Lauren Vines

– Events Coordinator

Lauren joined VicWater in November 2015. Lauren coordinates several VicWater events throughout the year, which provide excellent opportunities for the Victorian water industry and its stakeholders to be kept up to date on their respective issues and to network with colleagues and industry representatives. Lauren also manages the IWA conferences, which provide a forum for sharing information, networking and professional development in the Victorian water industry. Prior to working at VicWater, Lauren managed a variety of events for Peter Rowland Catering at the National Gallery of Victoria, and prior to that, managed events at the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce. Lauren's formal qualifications include Public Relations, Marketing and Event Management.



Fiona Ould

– Office Manager

Fiona joined the Association as Office Manager in October 2001, following a number of years in a similar role with Master Plumbers Australia. Fiona manages the day-to-day activities including accounts and room bookings at the VicWater office.



Our Sponsors

VicWater is fortunate to count a number of businesses and agencies as long-term and valued sponsors. Their contribution and support of VicWater enhances our capacity to deliver outstanding events to our members, adding value to both our members and the sponsoring agency. In 2019-20 the following organisations provided financial and/or in-kind support to VicWater.



Our Members

All 19 Victorian water corporations are members of VicWater.



Our Associate Members

The following organisations held associate membership status during the 2019-20 financial year.



List of Acronyms

| | |
|----------|---|
| AICD | Australian Institute of Company Directors |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| DELWP | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| DISC | Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee |
| EPA | Environment Protection Authority Victoria |
| ESC | Essential Services Commission |
| FISC | Financial Issues Steering Committee |
| IWA | Institute of Water Administration |
| LGBTIQ+ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer Plus |
| MDBC | Murray-Darling Basin Commission |
| VicWater | Victorian Water Industry Association |
| WWDN | Women in Water Directors Network |



VicWater
BETTER TOGETHER

L2, 466 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000
03 9639 8868 | vicwater.org.au