

MEDIA RELEASE

Goldenfields Water welcomes new chair, farewells founding board member

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Goldenfields Water has this week elected Chris Manchester from Hilltops Council as its new chairperson.

Mr Manchester takes over from Temora Shire Councillor Peter Speirs who is retiring from Local Government after almost 40 years of tireless service.

Dennis Palmer from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council was elected as deputy chairperson.

“It is a privilege to lead this Board, which plays an important role overseeing the management of our region’s precious drinking water resources,” Mr Manchester said.

“The next 12 months are looking very positive, especially with the start of a new four-year delivery program that will make sure we complete essential infrastructure improvements and provide our customers a value for money service.

“I would like to thank Councillor Speirs for his tremendous contribution over a long period as one of Goldenfields Water’s founding board members.”

Councillor Speirs said he was proud to have been part of Goldenfields Water’s efforts to build better customer relationships and deliver high-quality water supply services.

“Since this organisation started almost 20 years ago, it has been pleasing to see how we have responded to the many challenges in the water sector, including drought, population growth, ageing infrastructure and legislative reform,” Councillor Speirs said.

“Some of the service and infrastructure achievements I’m most proud of include:

- Replacement and upgrade of infrastructure around the Jugiong source, and the restoration of the link between the Jugiong source and the western system originating from the Oura bore field. This has added a much needed supply security to our network.
- The financial performance of the past few years, which has enabled budgetary certainty around infrastructure depreciation and replacement.
- The introduction of state of the art technology that has reduced losses within our system, and is the basis for the imminent launch of “MyH2O” portal as a service to our customers.

“Under the leadership of the new board and general manager, and our staff, the community can be confident that the future of our drinking water supply network is in great hands.”

General Manager Phillip Rudd said he was looking forward to tackling the challenges and embracing the new opportunities that lay ahead for Goldenfields Water.

“Water is a vital resource for our region’s economic wellbeing and liveability and the stability of our ecosystems”, Mr Rudd added.

“Working closely with our board and staff, I am keen to make sure that we deliver a quality drinking water supply network with a strong focus on our customers.

“I am very grateful to Councillor Speirs for his guidance since I started at Goldenfields Water and wish him all the best in retirement.”

Goldenfields Water has almost 11,000 properties connected directly to its drinking water supply network in Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora, and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai and Narrandera.

It also supplies water in bulk to parts of Hilltops and other parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai with the local councils in those areas managing the distribution of that water to local residents.

Phillip Rudd
General Manager

T: (02) 6977 3200
E: office@gwcc.nsw.gov.au