



Media release

The Hon Peter Walsh MP

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
Minister for Water

Wednesday 11 September 2013

New chair at East Gippsland Water

Minister for Water Peter Walsh today announced the appointment of a new chair to the East Gippsland Water board.

“I am delighted to welcome Joe Rettino as the new chairman of the Gippsland Water board,” Mr Walsh said.

“Mr Rettino has strong management skills and knows his community extremely well, having served as a mayor and councillor for the City of Bairnsdale and also on several school boards.

“I also congratulate Michelle Dowsett and Geoff Ellis on their reappointment as directors, following strong service to East Gippsland Water in their current terms.”

Mr Walsh also announced that Terry Swingler, former Yarra Valley Water general manager for finance, has been appointed director at the board of Southern Rural Water.

Horticulturist Terry Burgi, dairy and beef farmer Russell Napper, and dairy farmer Naomi Pye, have all been reappointed for another term on the Southern Rural Water board.

Mr Walsh thanked outgoing East Gippsland Water chair Gail Morely and outgoing Southern Rural Water director Harry Peeters for their service to the community and to Victoria’s water industry.

The appointments were among 22 new appointments and 57 reappointments announced by Mr Walsh today for Victoria’s 19 water corporation boards.

“The Victorian Government is committed to appointing water corporation boards that balance skills in sound governance, financial management, water industry experience and community connection,” Mr Walsh said.

“I am confident we are bringing together highly skilled individuals who can deliver high quality, efficient and sustainable water services to local communities.”

An expression of interest process is undertaken each year as board directors’ terms expire. This year more than 420 expressions of interest were received.

The new appointments commence on 1 October 2013.

More information about the new directors is available from <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/water-board-appointments>

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Visit www.premier.vic.gov.au for more news

The East Gippsland Water board appointments

Joe Rettino is the Human Resources Manager at Dwyers Volkswagen in Bairnsdale (November 2012 – current). He was the former General Manager Supply Chain for MBC Modern Baking Co Pty Ltd (2009 – 2012) and is a member of the Australian Institute of Management (1998 – current), a member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing Supply Australia (CIPSA) International Affiliation CIPS UK (1991 – current) and a member of the Australian Institute of Packaging (2008 – current). He has a background with Patties Bakery Pty Ltd (2004 – 2009), has served on school boards and was previously a councillor and mayor of the City of Bairnsdale. Mr Rettino has a Diploma of Management.

Michelle Dowsett was appointed as a Director of the Board in 2011. Ms Dowsett is a part time financial controller, Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd (2011 – current), member Municipal Association of Victoria Independent Audit/Risk Committee (2012 – current), and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam marker for Deakin University (2012 – current). She is also a former contract chief financial officer for Landlink, Market Line, Opteon (2010 – 2011), member of Central Gippsland Health Service (2011), member of the Audit committee for Workways Ltd (2009 - 2012) and has worked in property, engineering and accounting companies. Ms Dowsett has a Masters of Business Administration, diplomas in management and accounting, a Bachelor of Business and Commerce (Accounting), Certificate in Governance Practice and Administration, has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course and is a Certified Practising Accountant.

Geoff Ellis was appointed as a Director of the Board in October 2011. Mr Ellis is the Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Zone Abalone Industry (2007 - current), Chair of Lakes Entrance Fisherman's Co-op (2011 – current) and Chair of Mallacoota Abalone processing Company (2010 – current). He is also Member of the Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Tribunal (2005 - current), Member of Seafood Industry Victoria and Chair of its Finance and Audit Committee (2007 - current). Mr Ellis is a former partner of the legal firm of Warren, Graham & Murphy and a past President and Life Member of Lakes Entrance Community Health Centre. Mr Ellis has a Bachelor of Laws.