

# Media Release

**The Hon Harriet Shing MP**

Minister for Water

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 12 September 2023

## WOMEN LEAD THE WAY FOR VICTORIA'S WATER SECTOR

Victoria's water sector is set to benefit from new board appointments that better represent the growing diversity of our state and our regional communities.

Minister for Water Harriet Shing today announced the appointment of 125 board members to Victoria's 18 water corporations, nine Catchment Management Authorities, and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, bringing new skills and perspectives into the water sector, making the total number of board members 227.

The selection process was overseen by an independent panel, who brought an increased focus on Culturally and Linguistically Diverse appointments to ensure the leadership of Victoria's water entities better represents the communities they serve.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds now make up 19 per cent of board appointments across the sector, in keeping with the growing diversity of our regions.

Female representation on water boards was as low as 38 per cent in 2014. The appointments announced today mean that 57 per cent of board directors - and 17 out of 28 chair roles across the sector - are now women.

The number of Aboriginal board members has also increased to 21, up from 11 in 2019 and 13 in 2021. With this increased representation, 19 out of 28 water sector Boards will have an Aboriginal board member.

The new board members will be responsible for guiding Victoria's water organisations through challenges such as climate change, a growing population and bushfire preparedness.

These board appointments also put local people in local leadership roles, with 72 of the board members appointed coming from Regional Victoria, meaning Regional Victorians make up 55 per cent of board positions.

The Government is working to increase diversity in water sector leadership, and applications are encouraged from Aboriginal people, Traditional Owners, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Promoting diverse participation on Boards brings diversity in skills and perspectives and strengthens the Victorian economy and the broader community.

For a full list of board members visit, [water.vic.gov.au/about-us/how-we-work-with-water-corporations/governance-and-planning/water-corporation-board-appointments](https://water.vic.gov.au/about-us/how-we-work-with-water-corporations/governance-and-planning/water-corporation-board-appointments).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Harriet Shing

*"Victoria's water entities have a strong history of dedicated representatives and these appointments continue our work in establishing a culture of fairness, diversity, expertise and equity."*

*"We expect a lot from our water sector organisations, and they deliver – with low water bills compared to the rest of Australia, efficient use of water resources, working with communities to restore and manage environmental values, and helping communities face challenges like flooding, climate change and bushfires."*

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