

# Media Release

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Water



Wednesday, 8 October 2025

## DIVERSE VOICES TO LEAD VICTORIA'S WATER SECTOR

The Allan Labor Government is strengthening Victoria's water sector with more diverse leadership – bringing new perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our state.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney today announced the appointment of 135 board members to Victoria's 18 water corporations, nine Catchment Management Authorities and the Birrarung Council.

These directors will make sure Victoria can access affordable, reliable and high-quality that supports growth, jobs, housing, and regional communities in a drying climate.

The independent selection panel balanced continuity with fresh perspectives, ensuring Victoria's water entities are led by boards that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

Women are leading the way in the water sector, with over half of all water board directors, and over 60 per cent of board chairs, now women.

Regional Victorians continue to make up over half of board roles in the water sector, ensuring local knowledge and community needs are front and centre in decision-making.

The number of Aboriginal board members in the water sector has increased to 29, more than double that from 2019. With this increased representation, 23 out of 29 water sector boards will have an Aboriginal board member.

For the first time, the Birrarung Council will be led by a Victorian Traditional Owner, with Uncle Andrew Gardiner appointed chairperson. The Birrarung Council advocates for the protection of the Birrarung (Yarra River) and provides advice on the implementation of *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo* (the Yarra Strategic Plan).

The diversity of the water boards continues to grow, with more LGBTIQ+ members and people under 35 years of age – giving younger voices and communities a stronger seat at the table.

The appointees join 109 existing board members in the water sector to oversee the delivery of critical water services and preservation of Victoria's catchments and waterways. Victoria's public water sector is central to supporting jobs, economic growth, and the environment as we continue to face a growing population and a changing climate.

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

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Gayle Tierney

*"Strong governance keeps Victoria's water flowing with reliable, affordable, and high-quality services that support every town and city."*

*"When our water boards reflect the richly diverse communities they serve, they deliver stronger results."*