

Utility Nominee | Deborah Evans, Water Corporation



I have been employed at Water Corporation for 8 years. As Head of Strategic Finance I have responsibility for financial planning and analysis, financial modelling, treasury management and regulatory pricing. I also hold key leadership positions on Perth Seawater Desalination Plant, Corporate Water Quality committee and am an independent of the Risk and Audit Committee at WaterRA. I am a CPA and a graduate of the AICD. Prior to Water Corporation, I was General Manager Regulation and Risk at AtcoGas, a private utility company. My primary responsibility was the strategic development and

negotiation of the Access Arrangements for the Mid-West and South west gas distribution systems and I also led the risk management function.

I have extensive commercial experience in banking and finance having worked in corporate treasuries and banks where I managed significant debt portfolios comprising both Australian dollar and foreign currencies. I have been a director on, and chairman of boards and appreciate the different needs of boards and owners and the advantage that arises from viewing situations and issues from different perspectives.

Nominee response to essential criteria

Corporate governance experience

I am a graduate of the AICD currently representing Water Corporation on the Alliance Lead Team for the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant which is responsible for around 17% of the Perth water supply. I have served as a director on the board of the Retail Market Operator which was responsible for gas balancing within the SA and WA gas markets and as a director, including two years as chair, of Energy Credit Union where I also headed the Audit and Risk committee. I am currently and independent member of the WaterRA Risk and Audit Committee.

Accounting Experience

I am a Certified Practising Accountant with post graduate qualifications in applied finance and investment and financial planning. I am a strategic finance executive with more than 25 years' experience in the public and private sector in finance, accounting, economic regulation and treasury management. I have held a number of senior executive positions including acting Chief Financial Officer at the Water Corporation. In my current position as Head of Strategic Finance, I am responsible for corporate financial modelling, regulated pricing, budgeting and treasury management.

Legal Experience

Prior to Water Corporation, I was General Manager Regulation and Risk at AtcoGas, a private utility company. My primary responsibility was the strategic development and negotiation of the Access Arrangements for the Mid-West and South west gas distribution systems. This required a clear understanding of the Australian energy market with a particular focus on application of the National Gas Rules and contractual negotiation. I was involved in influencing major changes to the gas market including the review of the National Gas Rules - in particular in responding to changes in the determination of the cost of capital and merits review, the development of retail contestability and managing interim market operations prior to the establishment of Retail Market Operator.

Items highlighted in blue denote nominee self-responses to high priority gaps as identified by the WaterRA Board for 2021

Experience gained in industry, research or regulation relating to the Australian water sector, water recycling and wastewater management

I have been engaged in the water industry for 8 years. Over this time I have developed my knowledge of the key operational drivers of success in addition to the financial and economic drivers. I have achieved this through involvement in a number of strategic committees including Corporate Water Quality Governance (CWQC), Climate Response and Investment Governance. In particular, the CWQC covers review and analysis of operational and governance issues pertaining to the provision of water and wastewater services supplemented with site visits around the state to gain first-hand experience. I have also been an active participant on several committees at Water Services Association of Australia including the Utilities Excellence Committee, Financial Sustainability and Regulation network and Economic Regulation forum.

Nominee response to desirable characteristics

IT/Digitisation

I have been on a number of project boards overseeing the implementation of financial and geospatial systems. I have also assessed a number of IT related business cases as part of a prior role as chair of the IT Business Case Assessment Committee.