



Media Release

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MICHELE DOLIN STEPS DOWN AS GESB CEO

The Board of GESB has today announced that Ms Michele Dolin will step down as Chief Executive Officer of GESB, effective 10 June 2011.

Ms Dolin has held the position of CEO of GESB since July 2003 and has overseen growth in funds under management from \$3.2 billion to \$12 billion. GESB is Western Australia's largest locally based superannuation fund, looking after the retirement savings of more than 320,000 West Australians.

The Board of GESB is currently working with the State Government to implement the Government's new blueprint for the future management of superannuation for West Australian public servants.

Chairman John Langoulant thanked Ms Dolin for her contribution to the organisation and for her role in positioning GESB for the impending reforms.

GESB and the State Government are currently finalising implementation pathways for the reform of public sector superannuation in Western Australia, including the introduction of choice of funds for public sector workers and the outsourcing of administrative services.

"Ms Dolin has been instrumental in ensuring high quality services and consistent strong returns for members over the past eight years," said Mr Langoulant.

"In addition, she has been a strong advocate for members' interests and has represented them and the organisation robustly through the review process.

“Much of the reform planning is now well underway and, on behalf of the Board and GESB members, I thank Michele for her contribution.”

The State Government is expected to introduce legislation to Parliament shortly, which will facilitate the reforms.

Mr Langoulant said GESB remained committed to implementing the reform arrangements with the State Government with the objective of advancing members’ interests.

He said Ms Dolin would receive a payment of equivalent to 12 months salary, comprising payment in lieu of notice and an *ex gratia* payment set by the Board, along with statutory entitlements such as unpaid annual and long service leave.

Ms Dolin said she wished GESB well in the transition period as the organisation moved to implement the Government’s policy on superannuation reform.

“GESB is an organisation that has a strong focus on the best interests of its members and I wish the Government and GESB well as they shape the organisation to meet the challenges ahead,” said Ms Dolin.

“I leave with GESB in great shape, with committed staff and a strong Board with the capability and leadership needed to steer the organisation through future changes.

“I’m now looking forward to the next phase of my career which will see me return to the private sector.”

Fabian Ross, GESB’s current General Manager of Wealth Management, has been appointed Acting CEO.

Mr Langoulant said a formal recruitment process would be launched to find a replacement for Ms Dolin.

Ends

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1. About GESB

GESB is a State government owned superannuation and retirement services entity that manages an investment portfolio of \$12 billion (as at 31 March 2011). Some 80% (\$9.3bn) of this fund is managed for members in market linked schemes. A \$2.5 billion investment portfolio is managed for the State to support its defined benefit liabilities. GESB manages superannuation accounts and investments for more than 320,000 current and former WA public sector workers.

With more than 70-years of superannuation experience, GESB is ideally situated to provide members with a range of superannuation and retirement products and member education, information and resources.

For further information visit www.gesb.com.au.

2. Industry ratings and awards

GESB has been recognised for its strong member service by a range of industry rankings. For instance:

- GESB is ranked in the top ten superannuation and retirement funds in Australia, according to SuperRatings: SuperRatings Super Of the Year Finalist 2011; SuperRatings Pension Of the Year Finalist 2011.
- Chant West has ranked GESB as a Top 10 superannuation fund in Australia in 2011. Chant West's rating of GESB is based on consideration of both GESB Super and West State Super.
- SuperRatings awarded GESB Super and Retirement Income Allocated Pension its highest Platinum rating for 2011. This is granted to only the top 15% of the best 'value for money' funds, based on an assessment of investment returns, investment methodology, fees, administration and advisory services, as well as a robust, secure and proven governance framework.

The Heron Partnership awarded GESB its highest rating in 2010, 5 Quality Stars, granted to only the top 25% of super products, based on an assessment of investment arrangements, insurance, ancillary benefits, communications and contributions. GESB member education seminars also received the third highest member rating in the 2010 Investor/Member Sentiment and Communications Report by Investment Trends.

3. Industry Reforms

Several major industry reviews have been undertaken recently which could result in the greatest reforms to the industry since compulsory superannuation was introduced. The most significant was the Cooper review into superannuation. The Commonwealth government's objectives in response to this review are to:

- increase efficiency in the system through electronic and standardised transactions;
- improve the level of overall fund governance through standards and regulation;
- reduce the number of superannuation accounts per individual; and
- reduce investment costs in default funds through legislated, simplified product design.

The superannuation industry is expected to change significantly during the next 3 - 5 years with rapid consolidation of superannuation funds and individual member accounts. Funds will need to ensure they have sufficient administration and investment scale to operate efficiently with diversified portfolio risk. Recent merger announcements include Westscheme with Australian Super and Health Super with First State Super. By 2015, the number of super funds is expected to almost halve to 225.

At a State level, in March 2010, the Western Australian Cabinet endorsed 18 recommendations from the Whithear report "*A Review of Superannuation Arrangements for the WA Public Sector*". The recommendations include implementing choice of fund for WA public sector employees and encouraging members with accounts under \$10,000 to consolidate into other funds. They also include outsourcing administrative services, determining default fund arrangements, changes to GESB's financial advice services reserving and funding arrangements and new governance arrangements.