

board of directors

Aurora Energy is a proprietary limited company with eight directors.



John Hasker AM (chairman) was appointed the inaugural chairman of Aurora from 17 June 1998 after almost two years service with the Hydro-Electric Corporation (now Hydro Tasmania) Board. He also chairs the Aurora subsidiary Aurora Energy (Tamar Valley) Pty Ltd. He was chairman of the Australian Red Cross Service until April 2007. He is currently chairman of the peak fishing body Seafood Industry Victoria Inc.

He was previously chairman of Pipers Brook Vineyard Ltd, Cytopia Limited, Bresagen Ltd, ICI Dulux PNG, Arthron Ltd, IHD Ltd and the Council of Melbourne Grammar School. He is a former director of Pivot Ltd, Tassal Ltd, Gribbles Group, Health Computing Services and Selleys Chemical Co.

He was a general manager with ICI Australia from 1988 until July 1996 and has also held the position of managing director and chief executive with ARC Industries Ltd, Kemtron Ltd, FH Faulding & Co Ltd and chairman of GBC Scientific Equipment Pty Ltd. He holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Hons), a Diploma in Town and Regional Planning and a Master of Business Administration.



Caryle Demarte (deputy chair) was appointed a director on 1 April 2006. She has a strong background in the energy sector, with roles as general manager of Victorian-Government owned gas retailer Kinetik Energy, General Manager Corporate Relations, Public and Government Affairs and Retail with TXU.

Caryle is currently a director of Yarra Valley Water and Synergy and a member of the Victorian Government's Earth Resources Development Council. She was formerly a director of Australia Customer Services Pty Ltd, Victorian Energy and Water Industry Ombudsman, VENCORP, inaugural deputy chair and director of the Energy Retailers' Association of Australia and a number of not-for-profit financial sector boards. She has a Bachelor of Business and in 2002 was awarded a Public Service Medal for services to the Victorian community. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Tony Beach was appointed a director on 29 November 2007. He is a civil engineer with extensive expertise in asset-intensive industries including electricity, gas, water, rail and ports.

He spent 26 years with the former Hydro-Electric Commission (now Hydro Tasmania), most recently in the position of General Manager Network before taking up a similar role with Powercor Australia Ltd, Victoria in 1994.

He has since held senior positions with AGL/Agility Services, Pacific National Limited, Asciano Limited and Jemena Limited. Tony also worked in the international sector in South-East Asia and the Middle East and as a consultant to the World Bank. He is on the board of South East Water.



Mel Cooper was appointed a director on 15 February 1999. He is chairman of the Board Appointments and Remuneration Committee. He is a former secretary of the Australian Bank Employees Union and a former executive member of the Tasmanian Trades and Labor Council.

He was chairman of the Equal Opportunities Committee set up by the Training Authority of Tasmania. He served in the Australian Regular Army from 1958 until 1970 and worked for BP Australia for two years before joining the union movement in 1974.

Robert Kimber Company Secretary and General Counsel

Appointed company secretary on 17 June 1998 with responsibility for the interface between Board and management and the administrative arrangements for Board meetings. He is also responsible for management of legal services. Robert holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Adelaide University and a Graduate Certificate in Corporate Management from the University of Tasmania.



Brian Keane was appointed a director on 1 March 2004 after a distinguished career in business, particularly the insurance industry. He is the former Chief Executive Officer of the insurance group AAMI Ltd and is currently the principal of his own management and consulting firm, Brian Keane & Associates. He held several executive positions with AAMI Ltd before becoming the CEO from 1983 to 2002. He has extensive knowledge of the business sector and considerable skills and expertise in marketing and in the development and management of a large organisation.

Brian is currently a member of the boards of NIB Holdings Ltd and the Hollard Insurance Company Pty Ltd. In 2004 he was appointed to the Australian Competition Tribunal. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and of the Australian Marketing Institute.

He was formerly a director of CSIRO, Medibank Private Pty Ltd, TAB Ltd, the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW, the Insurance Council of Australia Pty Ltd, Sky Channel Pty Ltd, Australian Pensioners Insurance, Shannons Ltd and the General Insurance Ombudsman.



Peter Lowe was appointed a director on 13 February 2006. He is the chairman of the Board Audit and Risk Committee. He is currently on the boards of Citywide Services Pty Ltd, United Energy Distribution Holdings Pty Ltd, Multinet Group Holdings Pty Ltd, Snowy Hydro Limited, WA Network Holdings Pty Ltd and Norfolk Group Ltd.

He has also held board roles at Southern Hydro Pty Ltd, GasNet Limited and Clever Communications Australia Limited. Peter has a Bachelor of Commerce and MBA from the University of Melbourne. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of CPA Australia.



Geoff Willis was appointed a director on 29 November 2007. He is a director of the Aurora subsidiary Aurora Energy (Tamar Valley) Pty Ltd. He was formerly CEO and board member of Hydro Tasmania from March 1999 until his retirement in 2006. Prior to his appointment to Hydro he was Managing Director of the Amcor Paper Group.

He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and an MBA. He holds positions as executive chair of Tasmania's Water and Sewerage Corporations and chair of Colorpak Ltd. Geoff is also heavily involved with the arts in Tasmania as chair of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and as a trustee of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.



Peter Davis became a director following his appointment as Chief Executive Officer on 19 March 2004. He is chairman of EziKey Group Pty Ltd and a director of Aurora Energy (Tamar Valley) Pty Ltd. Previously he had been General Manager National Markets and General Manager of the Retail Division of Aurora Energy since the formation of the company in July 1998.

Peter has worked in the energy industry since 1981 and is currently head of the Energy Supply Association of Australia's (esaa) Greenhouse Project Committee. He is also a director of esaa. He has experience in energy policy, strategic planning, energy management, marketing and customer service and has been actively involved in industry reform. Peter holds a PhD in energy engineering from the University of Queensland and an MBA from Deakin University. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is also a member of the Council of the University of Tasmania.