

# Chairman's report

Friday 18 July 2014



Murray Irrigation

This is the Chairman's report distributed after the Board of Directors' meeting yesterday.

## 2013/14 performance

The results from 2013/14 are very positive, with 925GL delivered on-farm at an overall 84 percent total delivery efficiency, that in-part contributed to the 148GL of efficiency allocations to customers made during the season. Preliminary end of year financial results are also better than budget, and I look forward to reporting fully on the 2013/14 year in the Annual Report.

## New independent Director appointed

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Badger to a casual vacancy as an independent Director. As previously advised, the Board commenced recruitment for an independent director with specialist skills in engineering and project management in preparation for Tony Read's retirement at the November 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Chris' initial appointment is until this meeting. Chris brings extensive experience in both the energy and water sectors including international experience. Chris is also a Non-Executive Director of South Gippsland Water and resides in Gippsland. I look forward with confidence to Chris' contributions to Murray Irrigation and its future successes.

## Formation of a PIOP Steering Committee

The Board approved the formation of a PIOP Steering Committee, chaired by Tony Read and including fellow Directors Chris Badger and Tim McKindlay. The Steering Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the Board and Chief Executive Officer. It is intended to facilitate and support the implementation of the PIOP project, including project reporting, planning, delivery and customer engagement.

Our PIOP project is a once in a generation opportunity to invest in improving our infrastructure for the benefit of our customer shareholders and our communities. The formation of this Steering Committee will bring increased focus, direction and oversight from the Board to PIOP. Directors involved with this Committee will be remunerated in addition to their Director fees in recognition of the additional workload.

## Peter Hacon and John Bradford visit

The Board welcomed to the meeting Peter Hacon, Chair of Goulburn-Murray Water's Central Goulburn Water Services Committee and John Bradford, Chair of Southern Riverina Irrigators'. Peter had been invited to share the lessons learned from the modernisation of the Central Goulburn irrigation area. Peter was able to highlight issues such as long-lead times for reconfigurations, implementation issues with new systems, and the importance of identifying opportunities to reduce future costs.

## Fees and Prices for 2014/15 issued in June to remain in place

The Board agreed to make no change to the 2014/15 fees and prices issued in June as a result of the recent ACCC Final Decision on State Water's 2014/15 to 2016/17 Pricing Application. Our fees and prices, as is normal procedure, will be reviewed later in 2014.

## David Harriss, thank you dinner Thursday 31 July

Murray Irrigation is hosting a thank you dinner for former NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss. The evening will be held at the Crossing Café, Deniliquin on Thursday 31 July, at 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Shareholders interested in attending are encouraged to book their place. The meal will cost \$50 and replies are essential to Alison Bult, Executive Assistant via reception on T.1300 138 265.

## 2014/15 Operating Plan

The Board endorsed the 2014/15 Operating Plan. Customers are encouraged to read this document which includes useful information about water supply and drainage operations. The Plan is available from our website [www.murrayirrigation.com.au](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au) or via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

I also wish to thank Michael Hughes for being acting Chairman during my recent leave and for his significant effort during my month away. Michael's contribution is appreciated.

**Bruce Simpson, Chairman**