

# Chairman's report

Friday 19 September 2014

This is the Chairman's report, distributed following a meeting of the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors yesterday.

## **New Deputy Chairman**

Yesterday Mark Robertson was elected Deputy Chairman following the resignation of Michael Hughes from this position. I look forward to working with Mark and thank Michael for his contribution as Deputy Chairman since November 2013. I particularly thank Michael for his work as Acting Chairman during my leave in June this year. Michael is continuing as a shareholder Director.

## **Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) investment changes**

The Board received the PIIOP Steering Committee report. The Board noted the significant work that has been completed by the Steering Committee and Management to improve the quality of reporting on progress and expenditure on this important project.

Based on the recommendation from the Steering Committee, the Board agreed to increase the proportion of channels that will be upgraded to an improved level of service based on the company-developed Central Remote Control (CRC) technology, currently called our Standard Level of Service (SLOS).

The PIIOP Steering Committee and the Board has considered, over several months, an alternative mix of investment in the Standard and High Level of Service. The work completed provided clear evidence that the changes proposed to our PIIOP investment will deliver an improved and more flexible irrigation service to customers compared to our current level of service. It will also be delivered at a significantly lower capital cost and future operation and maintenance cost than the investment in automation originally planned.

We will communicate to customers more details about this change as we progress our customer consultation and engagement. We will also be available to meet with Landholder Associations and industry to discuss this decision.

## **Annual Financial Statements and Annual General Meeting**

The Board considered the draft Annual Report and Financial Statements to 30 June 2014. Our auditors attended the Finance and Risk Management Committee meeting yesterday to present their audit report.

The notice of meeting for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was approved and the Annual Report and Financial Statements will be approved shortly.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 20 November 2014 commencing at 10.30am at a venue to be confirmed in Deniliquin. I encourage you to note this date in your diary.

## **Water availability assessment**

Each month the Board considers the water available to the company, at this point in the season there is no opportunity for an efficiency allocation.

## **Progress with recruitment of an interim Chief Executive Officer**

Recruitment of an interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is progressing. I anticipate their appointment will be finalised by the October Board meeting. The interim CEO will be in place for potentially six months whilst a new CEO is recruited.



**Bruce Simpson**  
Chairman