

Chairman's report

Friday 17 October 2014



Murray Irrigation

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

Welcome to Dr Stephen (Steve) Gumley AO interim Chief Executive Officer

Yesterday we welcomed Steve to his first Board meeting as interim Chief Executive. I am looking forward to Steve working with myself, fellow directors and our workforce, utilising his extensive experience to ensure our company remains both strong and effective as we modernise our irrigation supply system.

In the coming weeks our shareholders will have the opportunity to meet Steve, including at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20 November.

Steve's immediate actions will be to meet with our workforce across our three centres and to learn about our business, our shareholders' businesses and also our region.

On behalf of my fellow directors I thank Acting Chief Executive, Jennifer McLeod (Jenny) for stepping up to the acting role and her commitment to the company. Jenny has been acting CEO since July and in this time has provided a stable influence to our workforce, ensured the completion of our 2014 Annual Report and proactively managed a range of issues.

I am confident Jenny will work well with Steve to assist him build an understanding of Murray Irrigation, our shareholders and the region.

Board development and improvement

The recent change in our CEO has stimulated your Board to consider its own effectiveness. With the Board close to finalising the 2020 Strategic Plan, recent experience including feedback from shareholders has prompted consideration of how we can improve as a Board to ensure Murray Irrigation is successful, including improving how we engage and communicate with our key stakeholders.

National Irrigators' Council

Congratulations to Tim McKindlay for being re-elected Deputy Chair of National Irrigators Council. We thank Tim for the time he invests in National Irrigators' Council to ensure our interests are well represented by this organisation's advocacy.

Agreement with Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to deliver environmental water

The Board received a briefing from Scott Barlow, Water Distribution Manager, on the arrangements in place that benefit both the company and OEH to utilise our infrastructure to deliver environmental water. This framework allows the company to be responsive to opportunities to deliver environmental water through our infrastructure, with the environment owning a large volume of water, this is an important arrangement which should work for our mutual benefit.

Water availability assessment

I realise some customers may be anticipating an efficiency allocation. Efficiency allocations are made by the Board after detailed consideration of the volume of water available to the company to deliver customers' allocation and carryover on a monthly basis. At this point in the season, the volume of company water is sufficient to deliver customers allocation and carryover however there is no surplus to allow an efficiency allocation. The next review will be in November.

Annual General Meeting

The notice of meeting and proxy form for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be posted to shareholders on Monday 20 October. The Annual Report will also be posted to shareholders who have requested a copy. Our theme for the 2014 Annual Report is *'Embracing change'* and features testimonials from shareholders. I thank these shareholders for their enthusiasm and participation and I recommend this report to shareholders as a detailed and transparent report for the 2013/14 year.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 20 November commencing at 10.30am at the Deniliquin Rams Clubrooms, Hardinge Street, Deniliquin. I encourage you to note this date in your diary and look for your attendance.

Bruce Simpson
Chairman