

# Media release

Friday 20 November 2015



## Smooth transition best for future

Murray Irrigation Director Mark Robertson was elected unopposed to the position of Chairman of the Board following the first meeting of the new Board of Directors today.

Former Chairman Bruce Simpson declined to nominate saying he had achieved what he wanted to achieve as Chair and the time was right to step aside.

Mr Simpson was elected Chairman of the Board two years ago promising to set the course for change to modernise the Company culturally and operationally.

"I feel I have achieved what I set out to do and it is now time for a smooth transition to someone who will keep the Company on course while bringing a fresh set of eyes to the detail," Mr Simpson said.

"Over the past two years I have led a change process which has culminated in the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer, Michael Renehan.

"I believe the company is now on the right path. We have developed a strategy and set breakthrough objectives that will see us achieve a break-even financial position while delivering the modern service our customers demand.

"As Chair, I have been supported for the last 18 months by Mark Robertson, who is committed to the process so it is only appropriate that he take on the role of Chair and I am very happy to be able to support him as his Deputy."

Mr Simpson said stability was of paramount importance as the Company adjusts to change and by maintaining the Board Executive, although in exchanged roles, the Board would maintain focus.

CEO Michael Renehan said Mr Simpson had the drive and passion to ensure that Murray Irrigation moved to a more responsive, inclusive and effective organisation, particularly when faced with the challenge of a constrained volume environment.

"Bruce provided the vision to focus management on change in the interests of both the customer and shareholder," Mr Renehan said.

"I am confident under the effective leadership team of Mark and Bruce this company will continue to progress to be a modern, dynamic and financially sustainable organisation," he said.

Mr Robertson said he was excited to be stepping into the role of Chairman at a time when the Board is welcoming new Directors who will have some fresh ideas.

"I think Bruce has done a great job setting us on a path and I am absolutely committed to maintaining our direction," Mr Robertson said.

"At the same time, we have new Directors in Chris Brooks and John Bradford joining us who will also have a lot to contribute and I look forward to working with the whole Board to take us forward.

"I am pleased that Bruce has agreed to stay on as Deputy as I think we have made a great team and I want that to continue."

Ends.

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