

Special Chairman's report

Thursday 9 August 2012



Murray Irrigation

The Chairman's report from Murray Irrigation Limited Chairman Noel Graham following a special meeting of the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors.

Muddied Waters A Clear Solution

In the Chairman's Report dated Friday 20 July 2012, I announced that the Murray Irrigation Board had decided not to pledge money to the Muddied Waters proposal to produce a website and documentary, to expose key concerns behind the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to the wider public.

As advised at that time, this decision was due to the Board's concerns with the timelines proposed for the documentary's production and lack of clarity about the content and structure of the proposal, despite supporting the intent of the proposal.

Since then, the Board has sought further clarity from the producers of the Muddied Waters project to get a deeper understanding of the intended content and outcomes of the proposal.

At the same time, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has released the altered Proposed Basin Plan in response to the Ministerial Council comments which fails to address many of Murray Irrigation's key concerns.

The latest version of the Basin Plan fails to sensibly incorporate recommendations of the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council and, where there was majority support for a position but not a consensus, has not addressed certain issues at all. This tactic adopted by the MDBA effectively gives individual states the power of veto over a majority position.

In light of these developments and the information provided by the production team, the Board has reconsidered the Muddied Waters proposal and agreed to pledge \$30,000.

Murray Irrigation will also continue to advocate on behalf of our shareholders and community to encourage State and Federal Governments to ensure our concerns are addressed in the final Basin Plan.

Bruce Simpson elected as new shareholder director

As announced in a *Special Talking Water* yesterday, Bruce Simpson has been elected to the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors.

Bruce will commence his duties as a shareholder director from the August Board of Directors meeting, with the appointment to be confirmed by the 2012 Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 29 November.

The term of the appointment will be until the 2013 Annual General Meeting.



Noel Graham, Chairman