

29 August 2017

Rice industry's longest serving leader calls it a day

After 34 years at the forefront of the rice industry, Noel Graham will not seek re-election to the Rice Marketing Board for the State of NSW (RMB) this year.

Noel was first elected to the RMB in 2001 and was its Chairman from 2002 until 2009, when the NSW government directed that the Chairman be elected from among the nominated members. He has served as Deputy Chairman since then. RMB Chairman Robyn Clubb commented: "Noel has been a stalwart of the rice industry and has made a very significant contribution over the past 16 years. His insightful and intelligent contributions and vast knowledge of the rice industry will be greatly missed. We thank him for his exemplary service to the rice growers of NSW and wish him well for the future."

It was during Noel's time as Chairman that SunRice converted to a company and the RMB sold the rice sheds to SunRice.

"The highlight of this transaction was the industry unity between growers, the company and the regulator (RMB), as shown by a vote of more than 95% in favour of the conversion," said Noel. Noel's service to the rice industry pre-dates his election to RMB, being elected Secretary of the Deniliquin Branch of the Ricegrowers Association of Australia (RGA) and a member of the Central Executive (CE) in June 1984 and Branch Vice President in 1986, a position he held until June this year when he decided not to recontest the position.

He has been the RMB representative on the RGA Central Executive since 2001, served on the Rice R&D Committee for 15 years and has been a Director of SunRice since 2001, including Deputy Chairman from 2013 until 2015 when the position was removed by the Board. Noel has also been Chairman of SolRice (Solomon Islands) and the Joint Venture company Sun/foods LLC (California) as well a director of Trukai in PNG.

"The thing I will miss most is the endless contact with the people that make up this unique industry, the growers, the company, RMB and government. It has certainly been a privilege to have had grower support over such an extended period," Noel said. "I have loved my time in the rice industry and have been judged as an above average director at all board reviews in my time. However, I believe that this election is the right time for me to vacate my position, thus allowing for renewal and succession within the boardroom."

Nominations for the election of 3 (three) members of the RMB will open in early September. Anyone interested in nominating can find out more by contacting Carol Chiswell at the RMB on (02)6953 3200. The RMB is the regulatory authority that operates to obtain the best possible monetary return for NSW rice growers, by licensing Authorised Buyers and issuing the Sole and Exclusive Export Licence. Four Board members are nominated by the NSW Minister for Primary Industries and three are elected by rice growers, and usually serve a four year term. The election for the three grower-elected members will be held by postal ballot in late October and the results will be announced at the RMB's Annual Meeting in November.

Noel will remain on the RMB until his term expires in early December.



The Rice Marketing Board

FOR THE STATE
OF NEW SOUTH
WALES

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