

MEDIA RELEASE

WRI welcomes new Board Members

Friday 9 December, 2016: The new Chairman of the Western Research Institute Ltd (WRI), Mark Burdack, welcomed two new board directors to WRI at a function held at the Union Bank in Orange last night.

The new directors are:

- Mr Andrew Everett – Andrew is a former senior executive with Optus and Vodafone, and has worked as a consultant in data, information and communication technology for many years in Australia, Europe, Africa and Russia. Andrew lives in Orange.
- Ms Jo-anne Strader – Jo-anne is Financial Controller of DSM Nutritional Products Australia, a subsidiary of Royal DSM which is a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials. Jo-anne lives in Wagga Wagga.

“The appointment of Andrew and Jo-anne is consistent with our plan to bring new knowledge and expertise onto the Board that will support our regions to address key challenges, and seize new opportunities, into the future” said Mark Burdack.

“The strength of WRI is that it is a Not-for-Profit business which was founded by people in western NSW, and is headquartered in western NSW. We work to the priorities set by our communities, with the knowledge that is gained by living and working in those communities.

“This not only keeps money and jobs in our region, but also ensures our consultants and researchers understand the circumstances of our communities and local businesses, and can provide high quality and informed advice.

“As a result WRI has been highly successful in supporting local government, business and community organisation to win grants to support regional development initiatives. Our clients include small business, local government, major departments such as the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, global companies operating in our regions, universities and TAFE.

“The appointment of Andrew and Jo-anne will add to the WRI brains trust, and help us to continue our work in supporting the communities of western NSW to develop and grow.

“We have greatly benefited from the outstanding contribution of outgoing directors Michael Milston and Ian Davison. They have given of their time and energy for many years to advance WRI, and I join with the Board in wishing them the very best in their new endeavours” said Mr Burdack.

The continuing members of the Board are Juliet Duffy (CEO, Regional Enviroscience), Kate Baxter (Regional General Manager, NSW TAFE West Region) and Lesa Dunn (Director, NSW Department of Education and Training).

Mark Burdack is the newly elected Chair of WRI. He assumed the role in March 2016. He runs Cultivate Solutions Pty Ltd in Orange, a management consulting company specialising in corporate governance, business development, community consultations, workforce planning, health and human services and the education sectors. He is a member of the Board of Regional Development Australia Central West NSW. One of his major projects is working with Charles Sturt University and La Trobe University to deliver a new rural medical school in Orange, Wagga Wagga and Bendigo. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). He has worked as a senior executive in the university, government and private sectors.

For interviews please contact Dale Curran at Western Research Institute Ltd on (02) 6333 4000.