



Wednesday, 7 December 2016

Executive Leadership Team changes

Dear Suppliers

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide an update on some Executive Leadership Team (ELT) changes.

It is with deep regret that I announce the departure of two of our valued ELT members, Robert Poole, Executive General Manager Supplier Relations and Russell Abotomey, Executive General Manager Dairy Foods and Ingredients.

After almost nine years with MG, Robert has advised me of his intention to resign from the co-operative. Robert has accepted a senior position with global professional services firm KPMG and his last day will be 17 February 2017.

Robert joined MG in March 2008 as GM Policy, Industry and Government, including managing MG's communications. In 2011 Robert was promoted to take on a new Supplier Relations portfolio managing milk supply, MG Trading and suppliers' services, including finance and corporate affairs. Throughout his time at MG, he has played an invaluable role in the introduction of numerous pivotal initiatives to support our suppliers, including:

- review of the milk payment system in 2012,
- creation of the Next Generation program to support young suppliers,
- attracting external capital to support farmers in MG Partnerships program,
- introduction of the Supplier Development Program and Consultative Groups,
- leading redevelopment of MG Trading including doubling of sales, expansion into new regions, closure of some stores and growth in fertiliser and feed,
- leading continued expansion of profitable milk broking business.

Robert has also represented our co-operative in key dairy forums, including six years as the President of Australian Dairy Products Federation. He was also the Deputy Chair of Australian Dairy Industry Council.

Robert said that after nine years it was time for a new executive to lead Supplier Relations into a new era and for him to pursue broader opportunities in a new role.

"While it has been an extremely difficult six months, MG continues to have the support of many great people, especially suppliers. Our dedicated staff in supplier relations, including field services, MG Trading and in head office will continue to provide excellent support to our suppliers," Robert said.

"MG is an integral part of the Australian dairy industry. It has great suppliers, staff and customers. With its tremendous products and financial strength, MG will continue to play a vital role in the sector."

Robert will maintain his connection to MG through his family who are MG suppliers in northern Victoria. A replacement for Robert will be communicated in due course.

We also announced today the retirement of Russell Abotomey, who will remain in the business until an appropriate replacement and transition has been confirmed.

I would like to personally extend my sincere thanks to both Robert and Russell for their tireless contribution to MG and particularly their efforts in helping MG navigate the many challenges over the past year.

I wish both Robert and Russell all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Mallinson
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)