



20 March 2017

Murray Goulburn announces appointment of John Spark as Chairman

The co-operative is pleased today to announce the appointment of Mr John Spark as Chairman, effective from 1 April 2017, following Philip Tracy's retirement from the Chairmanship and Board on 31 March 2017. John will join the Board as a Special Director on 24 March 2017.

John is a highly experienced director across a range of large and complex businesses, including the agricultural industry. Following an extensive search the Board unanimously agreed that John was the best person to assume the Chairmanship and all the directors are looking forward to him joining the Board.

John was previously a Director of Ridley Corporation from 2008 until 2015 and served as Chairman from 2010. While he was Chair the company restructured to become Australia's leading producer of high performance animal nutritional solutions across the full range of agricultural industries.

Since 2007, he has been a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee at Newcrest Mining Limited, Australia's leading gold mining company. He also previously served on the Boards of ANL, Baxter Group Ltd and MacArthur Coal Ltd.

From 1989 to 2004, John was a partner at Ferrier Hodgson, and was Managing Partner from 1998. During this time he oversaw the successful restructuring and return to profitability of many large Australian companies. John was also formerly a partner at Arthur Andersen and, prior to that at Orr, Martin & Waters and spent the early part of his career at Clyde Industries Ltd.

John has a passion for agriculture extending beyond his professional life. Until recently he had an Angus cattle farm at Kerrisdale near Yea in Victoria and was also an investor in Victoria's fourth largest asparagus producer as well as in a large Kiwi fruit business near Shepparton.

Commenting on his appointment, John said "It is a true honour to have an opportunity to apply my passion and expertise to the Chairmanship of Murray Goulburn, a proudly farmer-controlled co-operative that has grown to become Australia's largest dairy producer and one of the country's largest agricultural exporters".

As part of today's announcement, outgoing Chairman, Philip Tracy, acknowledged the difficulty the co-operative's suppliers have faced following a reduction in the farmgate milk price during 2016.

Phil said, "After this particularly difficult period, the time is right to complete MG's leadership transition. It has been an honour to be Chairman of MG and contribute to the co-operative which has invested in world-class infrastructure and developed branded retail opportunities".

"I would also like to thank each supplier for their ongoing support of the co-operative. I wish them all, MG and the Australian dairy industry every success," he added.

The Board acknowledges Phil's significant effort and contribution as a director since 2009 and as Chairman since 2011 and wishes him all the very best for the future.

Under John's Chairmanship MG now looks forward to strengthening relationships with stakeholders and building a stronger co-operative.

John Spark Curriculum vitae

Nationality

Australian, New Zealander

Education

Bachelor of Commerce, University of Melbourne
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants
MAICD Australia

Non-Executive roles

- 2007 – present: Newcrest Mining Ltd
Non-Executive Director & Chair, Audit and Risk Committee
- 2011 – 2011: Macarthur Coal Ltd
Non-Executive Director
- 2008 – 2015: Ridley Corporation Ltd
2010 – 2015 Chairman
2008 – 2010 Non-Executive Director
- 2006 – 2010: Interplast Australia & New Zealand Ltd (a charity supported by Rotary)
Non-Executive Director
- 2006 – 2007: Baxter Group Ltd
Non-Executive Director
- 1994-1995: ANL Limited
Non-Executive Director

Professional experience

- 1989 – 2004: Ferrier Hodgson
2004 – 2006 Consultant
1998 – 2004 Managing Partner
1989 – 1998 Partner
- 1984 – 1989: Arthur Andersen
1986-1988 Global Partner
1984-1986 Partner
- 1974 – 1984: Orr, Martin & Waters
1980 – 1984 Partner, Insolvency Australia
1974 – 1980 Chartered Accountant Australia
- 1972 – 1974: Clyde Industries Limited
Internal Auditor