

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Irrigators' Council appoints CEO, new directors

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NSW Irrigators Council (NSWIC) welcomes the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer and two new Directors at its Annual General Meeting.

NSWIC Chair Jim Cush confirmed Claire Miller as the CEO of NSWIC, after filling the interim role since July. Ms Miller has extensive experience and expertise in water policy, and a deep understanding of irrigation communities, particularly in the southern Basin. She has been involved in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan since its inception, and is a fearless advocate for practical, triple-bottom line solutions. She has a background in journalism, government and agricultural industries, and a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies.

"NSW Irrigators' Council plays a critical role in shaping the operating environment through appropriate policy and regulation," Mr Cush said. "Claire and the team will be focused on earning the social licence for irrigated agriculture amid rising social expectations and the pressures of climate change."

Ms Miller said: "This is a critical time for irrigation farmers in NSW. The water reform process has been long and challenging for all involved, and there's much more to be done to secure a sustainable, prosperous irrigation sector and healthy rivers."

Mr Cush was re-elected to a second term as Chair of NSWIC, with Rachel Kelly (Policy Manager for the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia) re-elected for a second term as Deputy Chair.

NSWIC also welcomes two new directors to the board: Peter Sheppard from Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Ltd, and Jon-Maree Baker from Namoi Water. They join Tom Green (Lachlan Valley Water) and Brendan Barry (Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators).

"Our priorities as a board are bringing strength through unity, conquering misinformation, and getting on top of constant reforms," Mr Cush said.

The board thanked outgoing director Tim Napier (Border Rivers Food and Fibre) for his six years' service. Tim will continue as a NSWIC, delegate.

"Tim has made a tremendous contribution to NSWIC and our industry, across the State. Tim cares about our industry, its future, and works tirelessly to reach better outcomes", said Mr Cush.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Tim, and the wealth of knowledge and experience he brings to the table."