

MEDIA RELEASE

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Almond Board of Australia appoints new chairman

Riverland almond grower and regional representative Brendan Sidhu was appointed as chairman of the Almond Board of Australia (ABA) at the Board's annual general meeting held on Thursday, 29 October during the Australian Almond Conference.

Sidhu takes over from outgoing chairman Brenton Woolston who held the position for the previous 2 years and remains as a Director on the Board.

Sidhu became involved in the almond industry in 1983 and has been actively involved as managing director of Waikerie-based Jubilee Almonds since 1991.

"I have seen the industry grow up and mature into a position envied by most other horticultural enterprises. I can make a good contribution to the ABA from a grower's perspective and I will do my best to represent all growers in all regions," Sidhu said.

Sidhu has a sound knowledge of horticultural best practice and understands the importance of communication to growers and ABA members. He has completed an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Long standing ABA director and Sunraysia regional representative, Neale Bennett was appointed Deputy Chairman. The ABA also welcomed three new Board members including Adelaide almond grower Domenic Cavallaro, Griffith almond grower Denis Dinicola and horticultural manager of Select Harvests Limited Tim Millen.

The ABA farewelled two long-standing Board members at its annual general meeting: Stephen Lynch and Jim Pierson.

For further information visit www.australianalmonds.com.au or contact:

Julie Haslett, Almond Board of Australia CEO on 0418 958 187 or 08 8582 2055

The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) is a non profit, membership based organisation representing the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers.

As the Australian almond industry's peak industry body, the ABA facilitates further growth of the industry, seeks to maximise its profitability and ensure its sustainability, by providing a platform for industry members to collectively respond to industry-wide issues, invest in research and marketing, share knowledge and interact with government and other stakeholders.

The Australian Almond Industry currently produces 36,000 tonnes of almonds on an annual basis, with a related farm gate value of \$250 million dollars. Production is expected to double by 2015 as new plantings reach full maturity, with a related value of \$500 million dollars.

Key almond growing areas are located in Sunraysia (Victoria), the Riverland and Adelaide (South Australia) and the Riverina region (New South Wales).

For more information visit www.australianalmonds.com.au or email: admin@australianalmonds.com.au