

November 3, 2010

## Almond Board of Australia appoints new CEO

The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) has announced the appointment of Ross Skinner as its new CEO from 22 November. The announcement was made at the annual almond conference held in Mildura (Vic) from 27-29 October.

Mr Skinner takes over from outgoing CEO Julie Haslett who has been employed by the ABA for almost ten years.

Mr Skinner will move from his current position of Industry Services Manager at Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL). He has been responsible for developing and implementing strategic plans through research and development and marketing programs for the almond, pistachio, citrus, table grape, olive and dried fruit industries.

Currently based in Mildura, Mr Skinner has been working closely with the Australian almond industry and the Almond Board of Australia over the past few years in his role with HAL.

“Given his experience, good understanding of the almond industry and related networks, Ross will be a great addition to the ABA team,” said Ms Haslett.

Mr Skinner said he is joining the Australian almond industry at a very important stage of its development.

“The Australian almond industry has undergone rapid expansion in the past few years and it is forecast to become the world’s second largest almond producer by 2015. It is a very exciting time for me to join the ABA and I look forward to working with the team at furthering the industry both in Australia and overseas,” Mr Skinner said.

Mr Skinner has worked in the horticulture industry for 26 years and has qualifications in economics and accounting.

**For further information on the position, please contact ABA Chairman, Brendan Sidhu on 0417 893 038 or [chair@australianalmonds.com.au](mailto:chair@australianalmonds.com.au)**

**For more information about the ABA and the Australian almond industry, visit [www.australianalmonds.com.au](http://www.australianalmonds.com.au) or call (08) 8582 2055.**

*The ABA is a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation based in Berri (South Australia), representing the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers.*