



GARDINER FOUNDATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

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16 November 2010

### GARDINER FOUNDATION AGM – NEW CHAIRMAN LEADS FOUNDATION INTO SECOND DECADE

At the Gardiner Foundation Annual General Meeting held today, Mike Taylor was formally appointed as Chairman to lead the Foundation into its second decade of operation.

Mr Taylor announced that two new directors would join the Foundation's Board, Mr Barry Irvin and Mr Michael Carroll. The Inaugural Chairman, Chris Nixon, and director Ian Macaulay retire as directors of the Foundation after 10 years of distinguished service. Paul Moughan, Doug Chant and Robert Clark will continue as Directors and are within their current three year terms.

New Chairman Mike Taylor comes from a distinguished career in the public service, having served as Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. Earlier roles were as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, and Secretary of the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Victorian Department of Agriculture. Mr Taylor is also Chairman of the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

Mr Taylor said "I have a deep commitment to the dairy industry, going back to my role with the Australian Dairy Industry Council in the 80's and continuing through my positions as Secretary of the Victorian State and later Federal Departments of Agriculture. I am excited and looking forward to the challenges ahead as chair of the Gardiner Foundation, which in its first decade has become a proactive investor in projects that have significant impact for the Victorian dairy industry and the wider community."

Appointments of new Directors are made on the recommendation of a Selection Committee, established in accordance with the Foundation's Constitution, with representation from the three Members of the Gardiner Foundation. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Chairman of the Gardiner Foundation and includes a representative of each of the Foundation's Member Organisations: Victorian Farmers Federation Property Trust on behalf of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria Commodity Group of VFF (Chris Griffin); Australian Dairy Industry Council (John Williams) and Australian Dairy Products Federation (Anthony Bourke).

The Foundation engaged an independent consultant to conduct a search for new Directors across Australia and New Zealand. Over 100 applications were received and considered by the Selection Committee. This strong interest and the very high calibre of applicants is recognition of the Foundation's integral and strategic role within the Victorian dairy industry.

The Selection Committee identified two other new appointments to the Gardiner Board which were confirmed at the AGM. They are Barry Irvin AM and Michael Carroll, who bring new expertise and networks to the work of the Foundation.

Barry Irvin, Executive Chairman of Bega Cheese, led the organisation through negotiation of key corporate alliances which resulted in Bega Cheese's growth from 80 employees in 1998 to 500 employees in 2006, including a \$100 million investment in infrastructure and the expansion of retail sales in over 50 countries around the world. He led key negotiations for strategic investment in Tatura Milk Industries and serves as TMI's Chairman as well as acquisition of cheese manufacturing assets in Coburg and cheese packaging assets at Strathmerton including a long-term supply agreement with Kraft Foods. Barry was recognised for his leadership ability in challenging environments. He was winner of the Monash University/NAB Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award for 2009 and was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the dairy industry and children with disabilities.

Michael Carroll serves a range of agribusiness companies in a board and advisory capacity. Directorships include Meat & Livestock Australia, Rural Finance Corporation, Warrnambool Cheese & Butter and Select Harvests. Michael brings considerable agribusiness and financial expertise to the Gardiner Board, having held a diverse array of senior executive positions. Most recently he was responsible for establishing and leading NAB's Agribusiness Division and has held senior positions in banking, a biotechnology venture capital company and the Australian divisions of US and European domiciled multinationals in their crop protection and animal health divisions.

At the Annual General Meeting, Member Representatives received the Foundation's annual operating reports. A copy of Gardiner's Annual Report 2010 is available on [www.gardinerfoundation.com.au](http://www.gardinerfoundation.com.au).

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