



MEDIA RELEASE – 19 OCTOBER 2009

RFCSSA (RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE SA INC) AGM

RFCSSA will hold its third annual general meeting tomorrow. Chair of the board, Don Blesing said that it has been another year of achievement for the Service.

'While client numbers are slightly down on the previous year, client numbers for each rural financial counsellor have increased.

Mr Blesing said that the Service adopted a major change in its service delivery this year.

'For the past two years staff have been very heavily involved in assisting clients with applications for Exceptional Circumstances relief, but we have now taken on a whole new approach to servicing clients, through enterprise action planning.'

'Due to the associated changes brought about by climate change, rural financial counsellors now take a much more holistic approach to servicing clients. We now work with them to ensure that they have appropriate business plans, management plans and risk profiles in place,' Mr Blesing said.

RFCSSA board will also appoint two new members at its AGM. Damian Fitzgerald and Sharon Starick will be appointed as new members with two year appointments. Catherine Barnett will be reappointed for a further two year period.

Damian, Sharon and Catherine will join current board members Don Blesing, Paul Mulraney, Andrew Nicolson and Paul Jørgensen.

Don Blesing said that it is a highly skilled and dedicated board, with all directors having completed the Australian Institute of Company Director's diploma.

'The Service has an outstanding board, with a good mix of skills including agri-business, law, accounting, commerce and marketing. Board members are located both in Adelaide and across regional South Australia.

'The skills and expertise of the new members, along with other board members has resulted in a board with outstanding corporate governance principles and one which is totally supportive of the Service and its staff' he said.

Mr Blesing paid tribute to retiring member of the board, John Voumard.

'John has made an outstanding contribution to the board during a period of Service establishment and relentless drought. He has served the rural sector magnificently both with this service and the previous service. I wish him all the very best in the future,' Mr Blesing said.

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