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MEDIA RELEASE

New Vice Chair for SAMI

A Barmera grapegrower, Ashley Chabrel has been elected as the vice chair of South Australian Murray Irrigators Inc. (SAMI).

Ashley brings a wide range of experience to the role. He is currently chairman of the Riverland Field Days, involved with the Barmera branch of the Agricultural Bureau of SA and a member of the State's Phylloxera Board.

No stranger to representing SAMI, Ashley has been a delegate to the National Irrigators Council for a number of years.

He is also a member of the Community Industry Engagement and Reference Group, helping to deliver the \$265 million SA River Murray Sustainability Program (SARMS) which is aimed at improving water efficiencies and regional economic diversification.

Ashley says as vice chair of SAMI he will continue to monitor water policies to ensure irrigators are fairly treated, particularly in future developments of Water Allocation Plans.

He would also like to see the State Government clarify its future use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant and to specify the triggers for its operation.

Ashley says another major issue currently affecting SA's River Murray Irrigators is the major increase in electricity prices in recent years, further impacting on their costs of production.

SAMI chair, Caren Martin says she congratulates Ashley on his new role and thanks Barossa irrigator Paul Shanks for his contribution to the position over the past four years.

"I am grateful for all the hard work that Paul did at a national and State level to further the interests of irrigators and sustainable river management," she said.

"SAMI as an organisation has stood the test of time and is further enhanced with the generational knowledge provided by Ashley and the growing committee.

"Ashley brings a practical, first-hand, irrigator perspective to the issues which SAMI advocates for.

"SAMI will continue to work for its members in the SAMDB by providing meaningful input into the policies which affect irrigators."

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