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ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA CHANGING OF THE GUARD New Chairman after 13 years

Animal Health Australia has welcomed Mr Peter Milne as the third Chairman of the Board in its 15 year history. Retiring Chair, Dr Roly Nieper AM, stepped down yesterday after more than a decade in the role.

“When I became Chairman 13 years ago, I couldn’t have anticipated how much we would achieve by having governments and the livestock industries working together,” said Dr Nieper.

“A major achievement for us was the development of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA). We worked very hard to bring together the Australian governments and national livestock industry bodies to agree on how a response to an emergency animal disease would be conducted and financed.

“We had to build a lot of trust amongst our stakeholders, and we finally achieved the world-first government–industry agreement after several years of negotiation”.

Since those early days, AHA members have continued to rely on Dr Nieper’s ability to provide leadership. He has used his knowledge and experience to ensure the company responds to the changing needs of its members. But he says the task has become much more difficult.

“Government and industry interests are more divergent than ever, and we need Animal Health Australia to facilitate the collaboration and cooperation required to achieve our national animal health priorities,” said Dr Nieper.

New Chairman, Mr Milne, who himself brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, agreed, and said he wished to build on Dr Nieper’s legacy of trust and ensure that the respect of members is further strengthened.

“Globally and nationally, we are entering another period of change and uncertainty and AHA’s well established culture of facilitation and collaboration will be all the more important,” said Mr Milne.

“Balancing the dichotomy of government and industry interests and making diminished budgets stretch further will be key priorities.

“If we can focus on complementary activity and working together, we will achieve so much.

“I am confident that AHA’s role lies in helping members to continue using these cooperative mechanisms and to work together to sustain a robust biosecurity system for Australia.”

Dr Roly Nieper AM



In the 13 years Dr Nieper has been AHA's chairman, he has maintained his focus on animal health, encouraging a culture of facilitation and collaboration between members and stakeholders. He has used his knowledge and experience to ensure the company responds to the changing needs of its members, including a broadening of AHA's programs to encompass livestock welfare, endemic diseases and additional areas of relevance to animal health.

In 2008, Dr Nieper was recognised for his significant contribution to Australian livestock industries, receiving a Member of the Order of Australia award 'for service to the primary industry sector through the development and implementation of programs and policies in the fields of animal health and welfare, livestock export, and infectious disease control and management.'

Although Dr Nieper is stepping down from his role as Chairman of AHA, his service to the primary industry sector will continue.

Mr Peter Milne



Mr Milne has been an AHA Director since 2002 and is well-known to AHA members. A former President of the Cattle Council of Australia, he has worked for over 40 years in the Australian livestock industry, and has served as director and/or chairman on a number of national organisations within the industry.

He is currently chairman of: Queensland NLIS Advisory Committee, NLIS Cattle Advisory Committee (National), Safe Food Production Queensland, Beef Australia International Committee, Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council.

For further information and to arrange interviews:

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