

Biography

Lachlan Marshall

Lachlan and his wife Genevieve moved to Blighty in 2006 and, together with Lachlan's brother and his wife Meg, they operate Yurunga Farms. This is one of the biggest and most modern dairies in the Murray Irrigation Ltd footprint.

The Marshall's chose to move their fourth generation dairy farm to the Murray Valley because of water reliability, however they have watched it diminish over the past 15 years. Despite the challenges this has presented, through an adaptive and proactive response they are able to employ 20 staff when fully operational.



Lachlan, who has an Advanced Diploma in Agribusiness, has been Managing Director of Yurunga Farms since 2006, after successfully merging LC & AL Marshall Pty Ltd. He has been actively involved in agricultural leadership and advocacy since 2005 when elected a Director of the Queensland Dairy Organisation State Board.

Lachlan became a Director on the Murray Dairy Board in 2019, but resigned in 2020 to become more heavily involved in regional water advocacy. He was elected Deputy Chair of the Speak Up Campaign, and is currently Chair of Speak Up. In 2018, after Government advice that a more united approach was needed to regional advocacy, Lachlan was elected as an inaugural executive member of the Murray Regional Strategy Group and is now the MRSO Deputy Chair. In this position he has developed positive relationships with key politicians and policy makers in the water space, with particular progress in this area throughout 2021.

Lachlan has nominated to become a Director on the Murray Irrigation Ltd Board because he is tired of losing neighbours - who are good farmers and corner stones of this dynamic region - because their farms have become unviable due to reduced water allocations. He is determined to fight to ensure more are not left in the wake of poor policy decisions.

He believes MIL needs to be the leader in water advocacy. He also sees a lack of transparency and accountability to the MIL shareholders. He wants to lead a cultural change at the company, where MIL respects and works on behalf of its shareholders and refers to them as such, rather than seeing its shareholders as 'customers'.

Lachlan has been frustrated with Landholder Association concerns being ignored by MIL, and has sought the backing of the LHA Chairs who have resoundingly welcomed his nomination. They generally feel like their wheels are spinning, and also want to see change. Lachlan wants a collaborative relationship to be developed between LHAs and the MIL Board to ensure the shareholder has a stronger voice in the direction of the company. This can only occur through a culture change led by improved communication, transparency and accountability.

Lachlan shares a common goal of working on behalf of shareholders to return water reliability and affordability to the region, and he believes the best way this can be achieved is through a joint ticket with Waander Van Beek, so they can work collaboratively to be A Voice for the Shareholder.