Media release

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MI looks to the future as changing landscape drives new approach

Over 60 shareholders gathered at the Griffith Regional Theatre for Murrumbidgee Irrigation's 2026 Annual General Meeting last night, where the focus turned to how the organisation can continue delivering value today while building a stronger, more sustainable future.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Chair, Tracey Valenzisi, said rising costs, ageing infrastructure and changing expectations reinforced the need to look beyond immediate challenges and make decisions that would strengthen MI for generations to come.

"Our responsibility is not only to meet today's needs, but to build for the future. That means balancing investment in the maintenance and renewal of critical infrastructure while keeping costs affordable," Ms Valenzisi said.

MI CEO, Philip Holliday, said agriculture was operating in an increasingly complex environment, with rising costs, evolving technology and changing customer expectations shaping the decisions MI must make.

"Throughout the year, our focus has remained clear: deliver value to customers today while laying the foundations for tomorrow," he said.

Central to that future is strengthening MI's financial sustainability. Research undertaken through MI's strategy refresh identified delivery costs as a major concern, while showing strong support for exploring commercial opportunities and diversifying revenue.

"This is not about changing who we are. It is about protecting what we have built," Mr Holliday said.

"If we want to continue investing in infrastructure, improving services and limiting the burden placed on customers, we must become a more financially resilient organisation."

MI enters this next phase from a position of financial strength but recognises maintaining and renewing its extensive network will require new thinking.

By exploring new revenue streams, improving how resources are used and continuing to invest in technology and infrastructure, MI aims to reduce reliance on customer charges and build greater resilience for the decades ahead.

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