



# **Operating History**





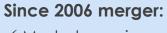


- Minimal safety focus: LTIFR > 20
- · Geographic: 70%+ profit Tasmania
- · <u>Sector</u>: 80%+ sales wholesale merchandise
- High gearing: >100% debt / equity (Roberts)
- Growth: Flat



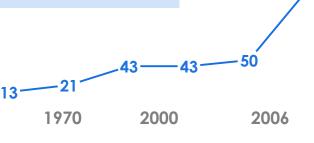
Established 1865

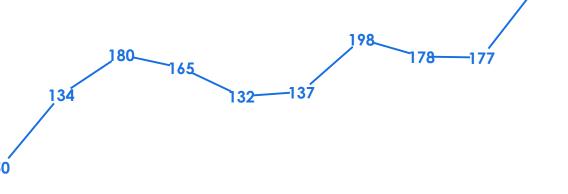




- ✓ Market cap increased five fold
- ✓ Equity network expanded from 97 to 281
- ✓ Earnings base diversified into new sectors

Market cap \$m





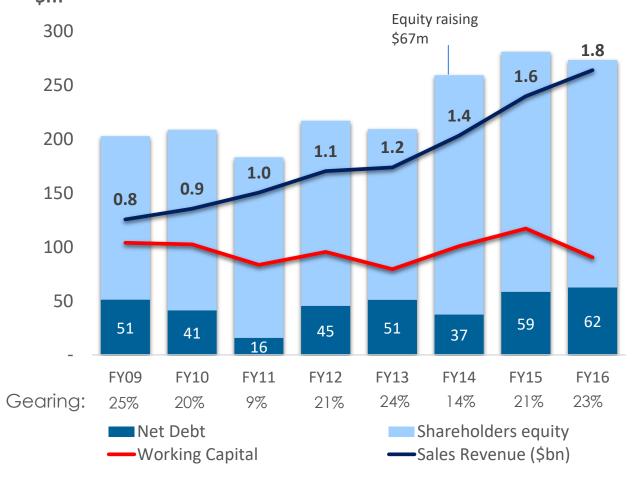
2010

240

3

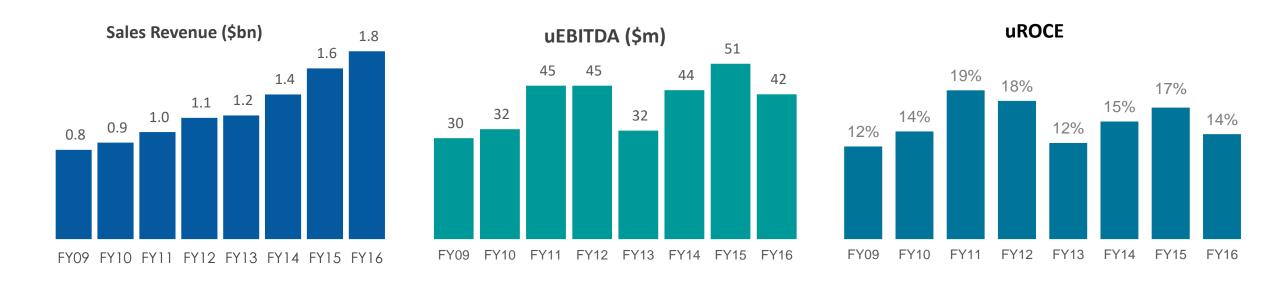
# Continued disciplined balance sheet and capital management

# Net debt and working capital relative to sales growth \$m



- Continued disciplined balance sheet management allows funding options for strategic investments and future business growth
- More than 100% growth in sales revenue over 7 years with working capital gearing managed at efficient levels while pursuing network expansion plans
- Average working capital 8% of annual sales at FY16

# **Delivering long term growth**



#### Comments on annual results

FY11/12 impact of acquisitions BGA, Farmshop, CQ Ag, Agritech and Farmworks. Also includes a record Agfarm result above its normal levels

FY13 was an industry wide difficult year with below average rainfall and challenging conditions

FY16 lower second half EBITDA and NPAT from adverse live export margins and well above average rainfall impact on water sales. Extensive restructuring completed in second half FY16

CAGR 12% from FY09 to FY16



# **Ruralco Operating Snapshot**



## **Rural Supplies**

Water

\$106m

\$81m

Supplies Sales \$1.2bn

Water traded

sales

sales

Water solutions

Water supplies

Fertiliser sales 600k+ tonnes



**Business Overview** 

47

~240

~2,000

~\$240m

2016 Business Units

Agronomists (14+

years avg exp)

Staff (at Sep-16)

Market Cap

# **Live Export**

Cattle shipped 127k head



### Agency

Cattle marketed 1.4m head

Sheep marketed 4.7m head

>\$1bn

Real estate properties

sold

Wool bales 179k



#### **Financial Services**

Gross Written Premium \$24m

Finance broking book size \$208m









# Ruralco's business model – relationship driven

- Ruralco is the integrator between inputs and outputs that drive Australian agriculture. Differentiated as an agribusiness through our tailored approach to market
- Increasing capacity to provide stable returns through geographic diversity and activity penetration

## **INPUTS FARM SERVICES** MARKET OUTPUTS Water Broking, Agency: Livestock, Real Supplies, Services Estate, Wool and Grain Agronomy Live Export: Integrated Financing, Insurance, Rural Northern Supply Chain Wholesale Market Analysis and Supplies Risk Management



## **FUTURE FARMING STRATEGY**

# "We're here for Australian farmers"

Strategy Execution + Improved operating leverage = NPAT & EPS growth

#### INVESTMENT

#### INNOVATION

#### INTEGRATION

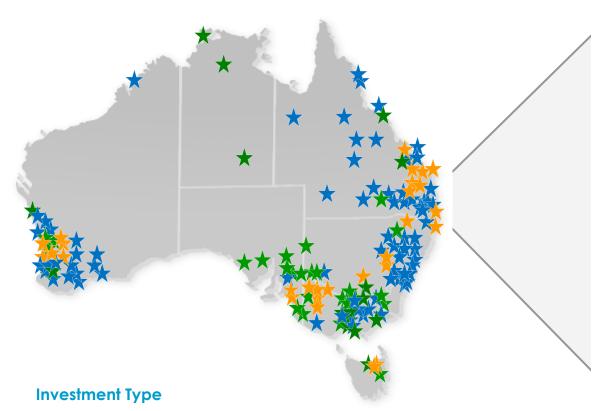
- Leading consolidator in water retail and services sectors
- Fill remaining gaps in the retail network
- Grow the high yielding agency business

- Commercialise the 'next wave' of AgTech
- ✓ Be a leader in the future of farming
- Invest in digital transformation
- Empower our employees and customers with the latest in innovation

- Bringing world class technology to the water industry
- \$ Step change in Financial Services
- Strategic investments along the rural supplies value chain
- Maximise market share along the entire protein supply chain

#### SCALEABLE BACKOFFICE

# Investment - Growing the equity platform























**B J UNDERWOOD PTY LTD** 





















































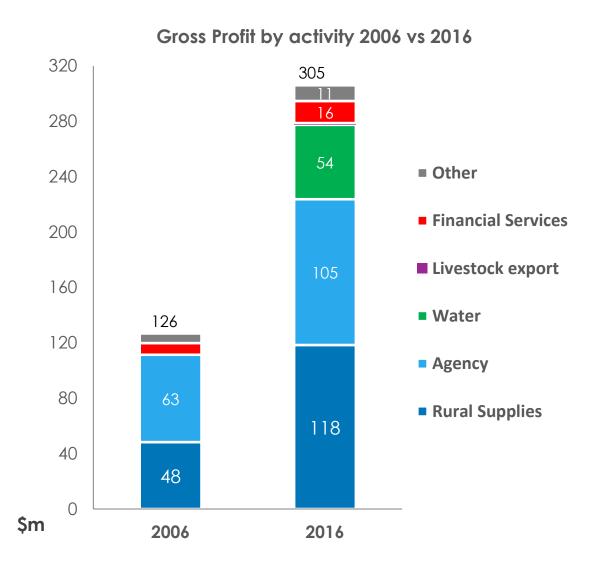


Greenfields

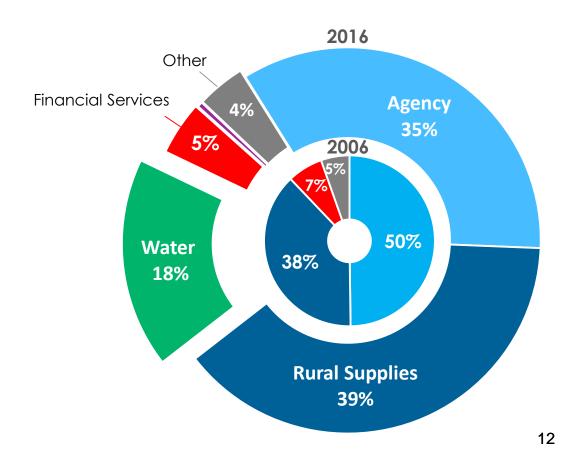
Existing CRT member acquired



# Integration - Activity penetration from expanding footprint

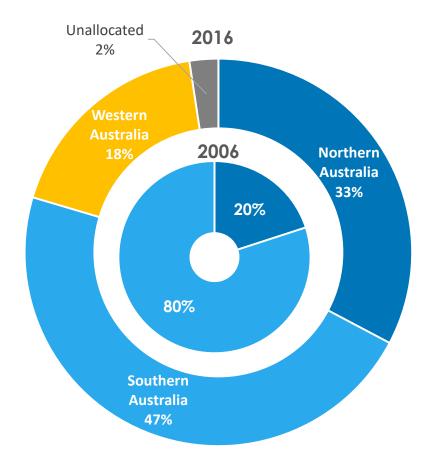


#### Business activity change (in gross profit) from 2006 vs 2016



# Integration – Geographical diversity of footprint

#### Gross Profit contribution by geography 2006 vs 2016



- Ruralco's business is geographically diversified with no concentration in a particular state or catchment area to mitigate the impact of seasonal conditions
- At the time of the merger approximately 80% of gross profit earned by the business was generated in Tasmania
- Over the past 10 years the Group has diversified earnings (both through acquisitions and greenfields)
- Significant growth in the North, primarily QLD and NT (through the live export business) and into the West Australian markets

#### Key

# Innovation – connecting our customers to the latest in AgTech

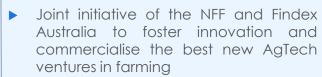


#### **Private label products**

- Partnership with Marubeni to bring new technology to market
- Expanding development into second largest rural supplies category, animal health, under the Covine brand in 2017
- Successfully launched AgChem private label product range, Relyon, focused initially on broadacre winter croppina







Ruralco provide path to market





### **Launch of Program Elevate**



- Digital transformation providing a scalable e-commerce platform for our customers
- A single view of the customer;
- Mobility services with digitalised Point of Sale (POS) and inventory management;
- Improved customer experience with upgraded customer portal

#### **Ag Industry Innovation**

- Partnership with PrecisionHawk to offer drone and data packages to our customers
- Commencing development of new livestock agency app





# Anatomy of a Ruralco branch



- lconic, local primary branding
- 2 Prominent display of CRT membership
- Multiple activities present onsite, generating diverse earnings streams
- Staff may be predominately outbound and utilise the branch as a hub

# CRT - Australia's largest independent rural retailing Group



Established in 1970

CRT generates revenue for Ruralco through a margin on the wholesale cost of goods.

Strong focus on crop protection and animal health product sales and supports an extensive general rural merchandise products portfolio

Membership profile is geographically diverse

~80 equity/corporate owned store members

~290 independent store members

CRT Supply both equity/corporate owned and independent stores

# Water - the most fundamental farming input

- Ruralco's focus on water ensures it can support our farming customer in using water efficiently and reliably on farm, in doing this and supporting the farmers longevity, the Group's own future is assured.
- Agriculture uses more than 62% of Australian water consumption, irrigation uses 90% of agriculture volume\*
- As focus on agricultural production continues to grow so will demand for innovative, high tech water infrastructure
- Federal government has committed more than \$2.5bn of funding for irrigation projects which, support agricultural production
- Strategically Ruralco invests in assets that reduce the cyclical impact of rainfall on earnings, capture a greater share of wallet in a high margin category and highlight a point of difference between Ruralco and its peers.



#### Services

- Design
- Construction
- Installation
- Maintenance



#### Broking

- Ruralco Water Brokers >
- National Water
  Exchange on line
  trading platform



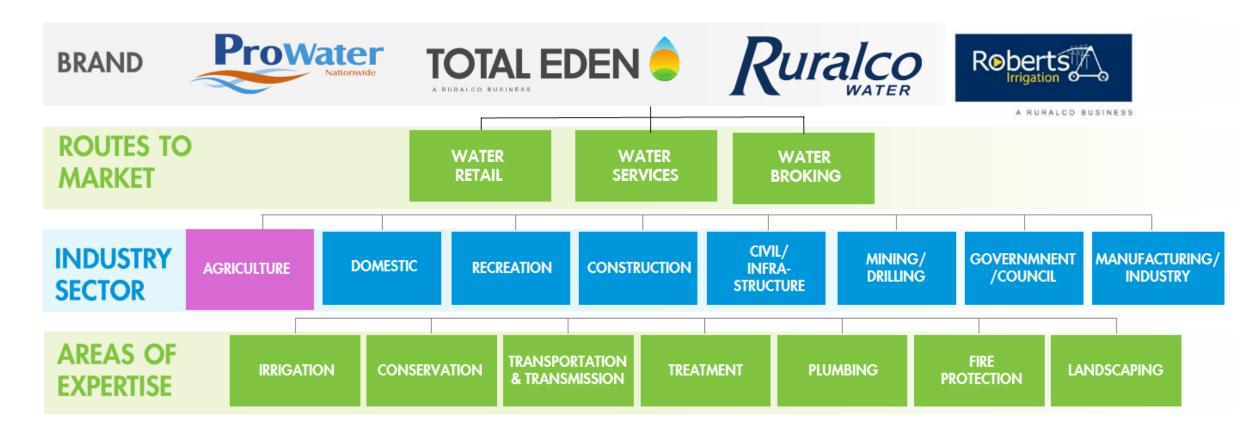
#### Retail

Domestic and agricultural irrigation products and parts



<sup>\*</sup> Source : ABS based on 14/15 year data

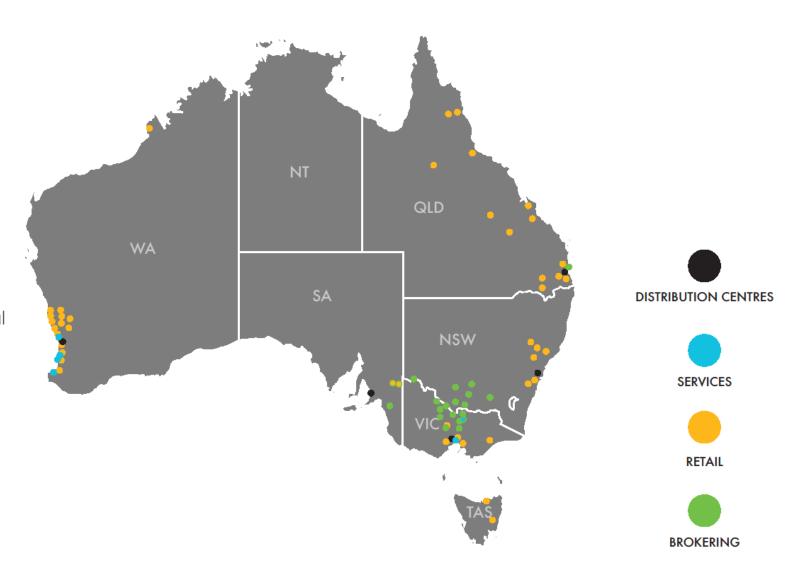
## Water Business Overview



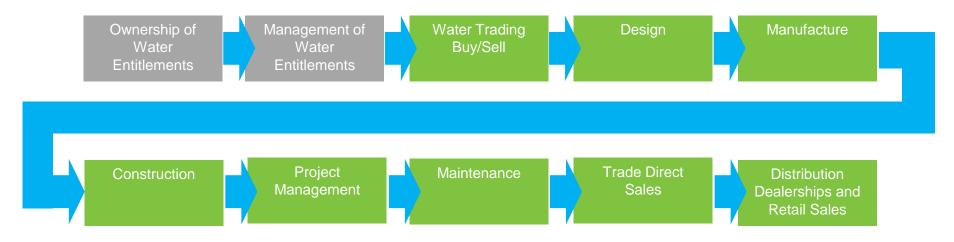
Strong growth focus in the Agricultural business sector

# National Water Footprint

- Total of 41 retail, 7 service and 20 brokering sites around Australia
- Site locations and targets focused on catchment areas and agricultural centres
- Brokering sites are positioned in key strategic locations along the Murray Darling Basin
- Distribution centres in all major capital cities



# The Water Supply Chain



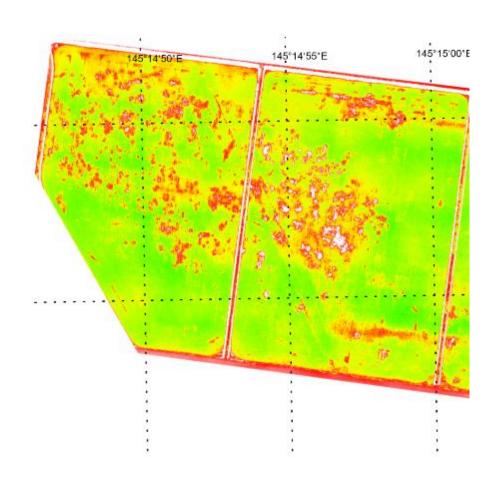
- Ruralco Participation in the water supply chain
- Ruralco is the only consolidator in the water services and retail sector
- Focused on implementing the latest in technology through out all areas of the water supply chain and across the water footprint
- Extensive access to data and information from the water supply chain

# Client Engagement - PISA

- In 21 years PISA has grown from a 150ha farm to 1600ha
- The farm supports 7 full-time employees and produces the following crops:
  - cereals
  - canola
  - poppies
  - clover
  - peas
  - various fodder and small seed crops
  - strong livestock focus
  - over 30 centre pivot irrigators



## PrecisionHawk



- PrecisionHawk drones deliver market-leading data and analytics that provide deeper insights into the productivity of a farm
- Drones can estimate yields, optimise input use and improve variable rate applications through soil moisture and nutrient mapping, as well as the ability to decrease the reaction time of farmers to in-crop threats
- Datamapper software enables drones to analyse plant height, weed detection, plant counting, canopy cover, crop health indexes, volumetrics, certain types of disease detection



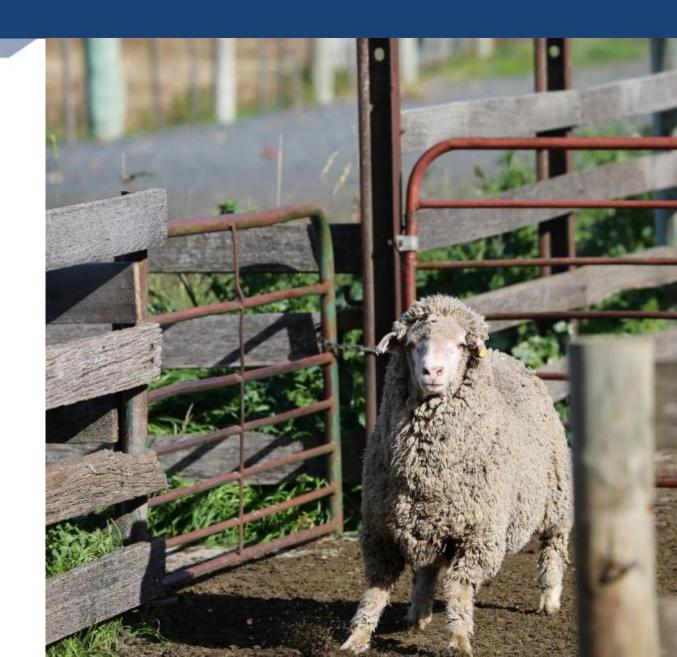
# Powranna Saleyards

- The Saleyards are 100% owned by Roberts and were established in March 2014 with an estimated total investment of \$5.5M in both the yards and surrounding infrastructure
- Powranna has the ability to cater for an estimated 100,000 sheep and 30,000 cattle a year
- Soft flooring to ensure the welfare of the animals
- Able to hold just over 600 head of cattle fully under cover
- State of the art drafting and weighting facility
- There has been a big focus on work health and safety in the yard and best in industry



# Wool – Tasmanian Merino

- Each year, approximately 40,000 wool bales are sold through Roberts Wool
- Much of the fleece is sold via the open cry auction ending up in Europe, Korea and Japan
- Historically the peaks and troughs in the price of wool has meant that growers face uncertainty in the price they are going to get, the "Tas Merino" brand aims to take out those peaks and troughs through eco-credentials and origin, ensuring value added downstream
- Export markets particularly Japan, and increasingly in China, there is perceived value add in the knowledge the wool is Tasmanian Merino



# Mecardo - Ruralco's expert market analysis business

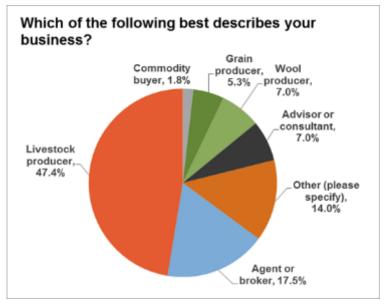


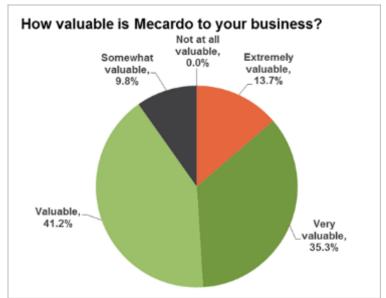
#### Mecardo's analysis supports informed decision making:

- Change in selling / procurement strategy of livestock / wool
- Use of price risk management tools e.g. forwards (grain, wool)
- When to increase stock numbers
- Future budget projections

#### Value-add for Ruralco service providers:

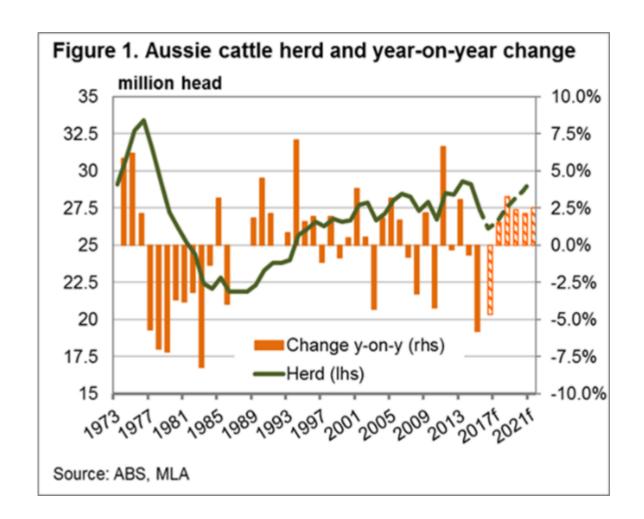
- Using information with clients point of discussion
- Confidence in knowledge of commodities
- ▶ Better analysis of purchase and sale options for clients





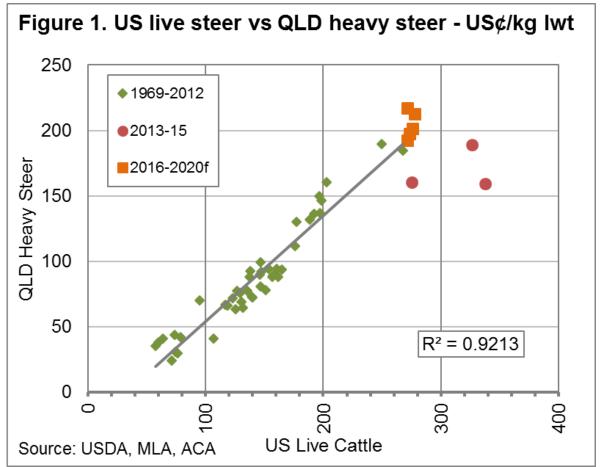
# Post drought - Australian herd set to re-build

- Following drought, producers rebuild the herd
- Herd rebuild means lower sale/slaughter numbers, putting pressure on processors
- Slow turn-around expected given the extent of herd turn-off over the past 2 years
- Wet season dependant
- Worst of sales volume soon behind us

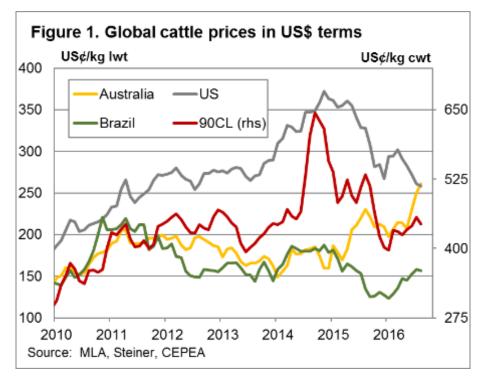


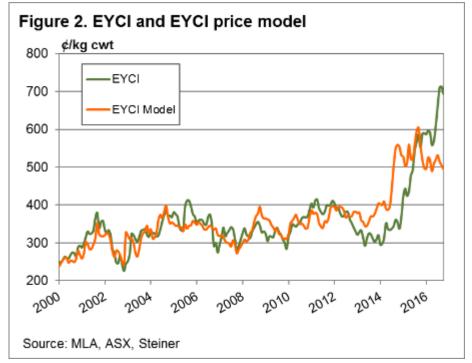
# What happens in the US is important

- US and Australian prices are correlated as we compete in similar export markets
- Except when we have supply shocks
- Maintaining agency earnings



# International meat prices



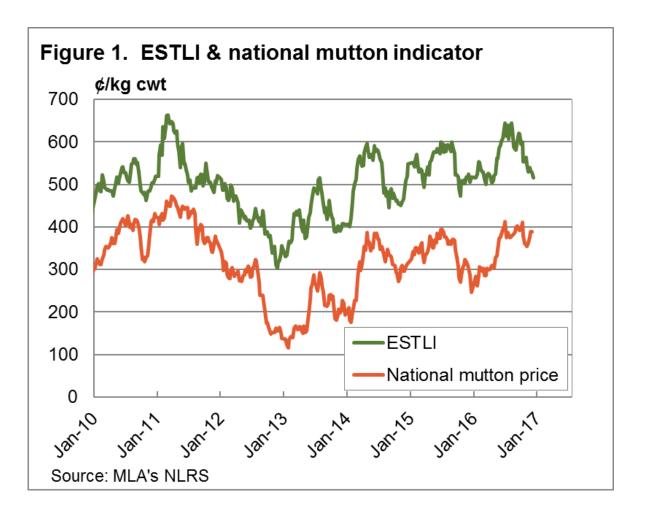


- Markets are correlated
- Predictions can be made

- Australian beef now over-valued
- Market driven by re-stockers
- Cattle market to retrace towards 500 cents?

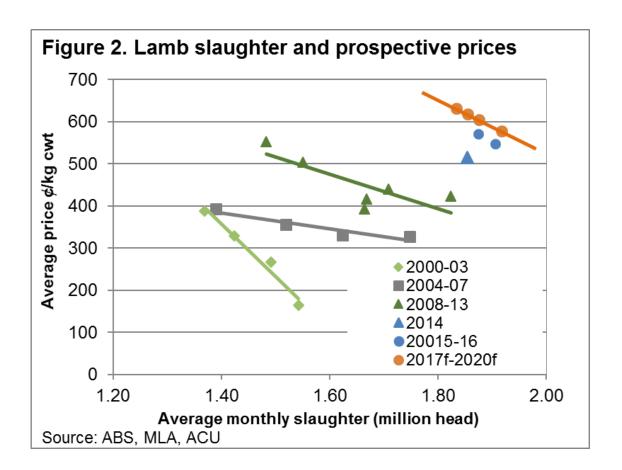
# Lamb & Sheep Market

- Incentive to rebuild flock due to favourable weather and increasing lamb prices (since 2013)
- Confidence high for sheep meat
- Price & Supply to continue positive sentiment



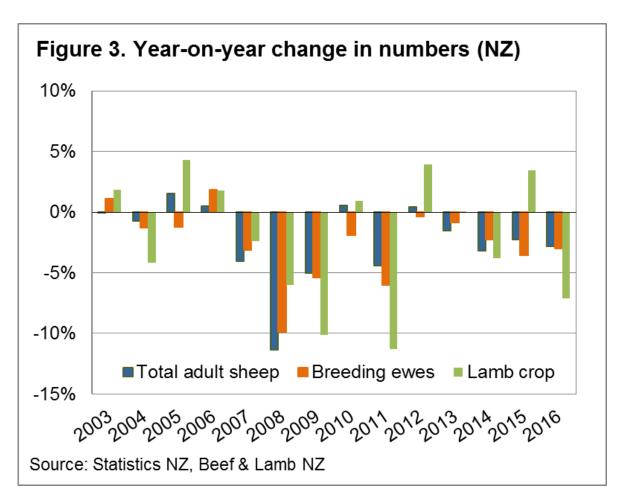
# Key indicator of confidence

- Growth in lamb numbers as curves shift to the right as demand expands over time
- Optimistic outlook
- Is this the "darling" of ag for this decade?



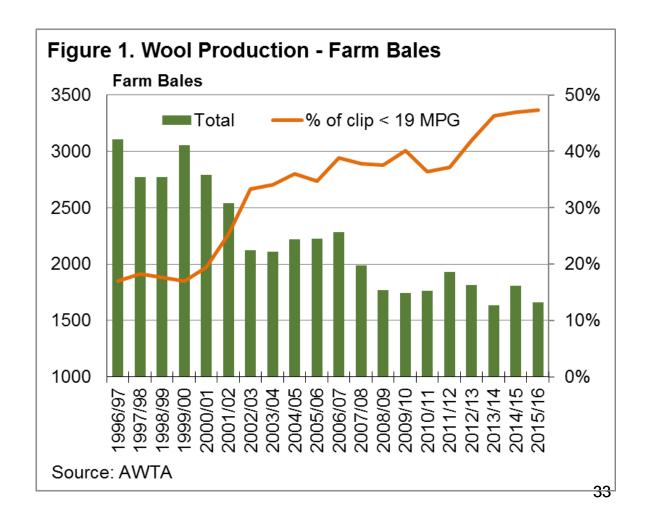
## New Zealand

- Australia & New Zealand are the only significant lamb exporters
- Falling sheep numbers in New Zealand will reduce supply
- Result in increased demand for Australian lamb?

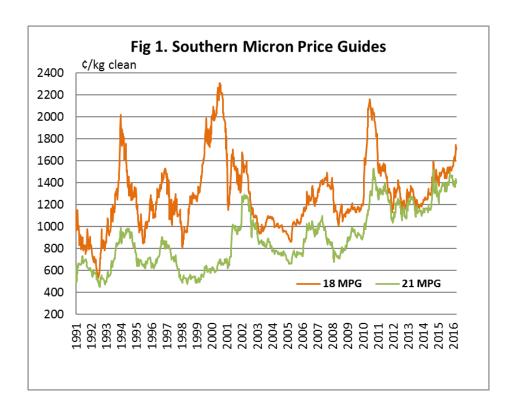


# Wool – Supply under pressure

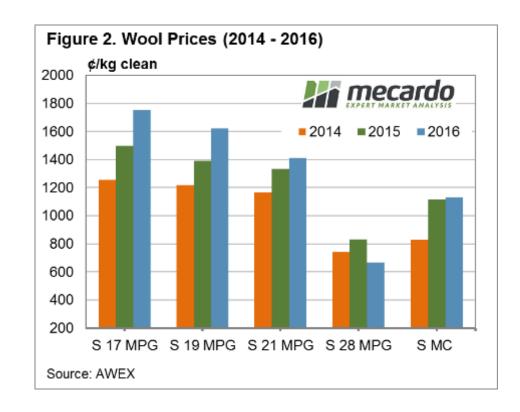
- Wool has lost ground to crops
- Fine wool over-supplied
- Numbers stabilising
- Fine wool volume to fall
- Supply to consolidate



# Wool – Price recovered

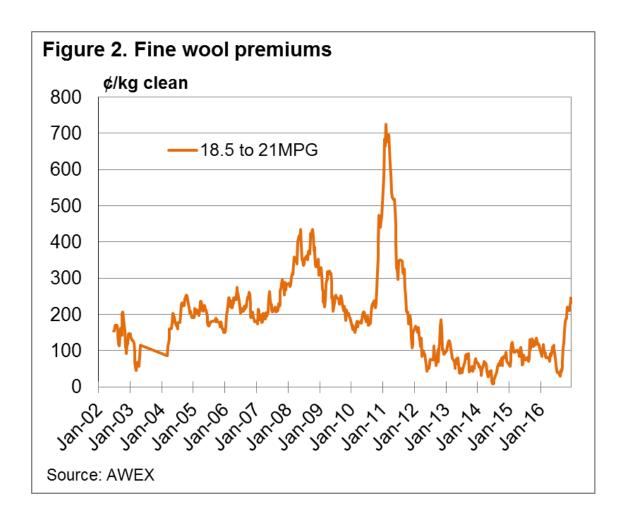


- Grower returns now very good
- Fine wool premiums returning
- Still a challenge to increase Merino numbers



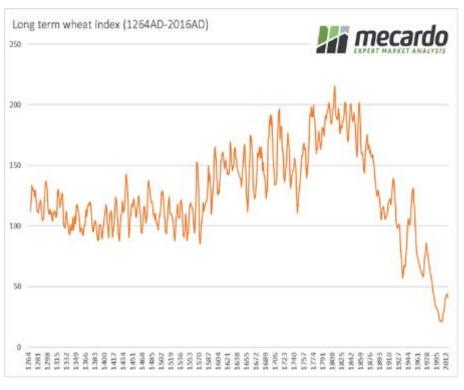
## Fine Wool Premiums

- As supply re-aligns post drought, fine wool premiums will to continue to improve
- Can this encourage increased production?



# Grain

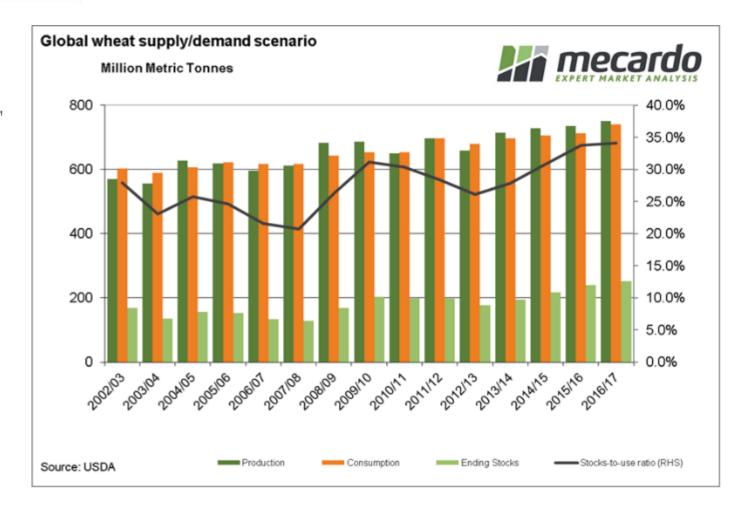




- Prices have eased in recent times, first population increase, then technology improvements - and have impacted prices long-term (1264 to current)
- Without new innovation (+ with pop. increase) will demand lift price?

## Global Stocks

- Stocks to use at 35% is very comfortable
- Recent production globally has been "event free"
- This can change quickly
- Despite low price, no reduction in plant intentions



# Horticulture and Viticulture in Tasmania

- Traditional horticulture for Tasmania include tree crops, vegetables, vines and poppies
- Currently experiencing significant expansion in berries, vines and cherries
- Investment from national and multinational businesses such as Costa, Simplot, Brown Brothers, Sumich has seen the industry grow
- Water surety through new state government irrigation schemes; as well as private investment support has led to on-farm irrigation expansion and the opportunity to grow high value crops
- Majority of sales are generated in the field by out-bound agronomists



# Leadership Team



**Travis Dillon** 

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Travis joined Ruralco in 2007 and has held several senior leadership roles including General Manager – Mainland Operations and General Manager – Rural Retail. During his tenure, Travis has overseen all rural operations including livestock, wool, merchandise, live export and real estate. Travis has been involved with the agribusiness industry for over 20 years and has extensive experience in all activities across the group.



Adrian Gratwicke Chief Financial Officer



Greg O'Neil
Exec General Manager CRT,
Rural Supplies, Group
Marketing & Communications



Matt Pedersen Exec General Manager Rural Operations



lan Perry Exec General Manager Financial Services



**Elizabeth Hardaker** Exec General Manager People & Culture



Peter Weaver
Exec General Manager
Water & Southern
Businesses



Ilona Alsters
General Counsel &
Company Secretary

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# Ruralco

**WE'RE HERE FOR AUSTRALIAN FARMERS**