



Wattle Health Australia Appoints New CEO

- **30-year dairy industry veteran Dr. Tony McKenna, the current CEO of Corio Bay Dairy Group JV, has been nominated to become Group CEO and Managing Director of Wattle Health Australia Limited (WHA) on February 1 2020.**
- **WHA Board Member Peter Biantes will serve as Interim Independent Non-Executive Chairman during this transitional period.**
- **With construction of the Corio Bay Dairy Group (CBDG) spray dryer on track for commissioning in the first half of CY2020, CBDG has strengthened its team with the appointment of two highly experienced nutritional powder experts.**

Friday 15 November 2019: The Board of Wattle Health Australia Limited (**WHA**) has nominated Dr. Tony McKenna, currently CEO of the Corio Bay Dairy Group (**CBDG**), to become the Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of WHA with a start date of 1 February 2020.

Over the last two years WHA has embarked on an ambitious plan to become one of the few companies in the world which has a genuine vertically integrated organic nutritional dairy supply chain.

The WHA Board has now moved to strengthen its management team by bringing in people with commercial dairy experience who can execute the strategy WHA has put in place.

Dr. Tony McKenna has been nominated to join the WHA board as Executive Director on the completion of the proposed acquisition of additional shares in Blend and Pack Pty Ltd. The Board is yet to finalise an employment package for Dr. Tony McKenna and will update the market when this has been settled.

Current CEO and Executive Chairman Lazarus Karasavvidis will remain as CEO and a WHA Executive Board member in the interim period to February 1 2020. Post February 1 Lazarus Karasavvidis will continue with WHA as an Executive Director.

Current Non-Executive Director, Peter Biantes will serve as the Interim Independent Non-Executive Chairman as the Board conducts an extensive search for a new Independent Non-Executive Chairman. Interim Independent Non- Executive Chairman Peter Biantes said, *“On behalf of the Board we thank Lazarus for his hard work and vision in taking the company to where it is today. Wattle Health Australia is well positioned to be a global leader in organic nutritional dairy products, with an integrated supply chain, a new organic brand in Uganic and setting up the framework for success in the world’s biggest infant formula market, China, with strong JV partners like ODFA and Nouriz.”*

Lazarus Karasavvidis noted:

“Wattle Health Australia at the time of listing on the ASX in March 2017 had an enterprise value of AU\$15 million with nil tangible assets. On the completion of the proposed acquisition of B&P, WHA will have net tangible assets of circa AU\$110 million (after provisioning for the deferred payment of US\$30 million due to Mason under the SPA) with an enterprise value based on the closing WHA share price on 30 September 2019 (of AU\$0.53 per share) of circa AU\$80 million. Wattle Health is now well positioned to become Australia’s leading organic dairy product supplier.

The Board has identified Tony McKenna as the right person to take Wattle Health into the future. Tony and I have worked closely together since his appointment to CBDG in March this year, to make the transition as smooth as possible and to ensure the future success of WHA. Our close working relationship has enabled us to develop our relationship with one of the premier China dairy companies, Nouriz. Tony’s deep industry knowledge, commercial experience and his values make him the right choice for WHA’s future.”

Dr. Tony McKenna brings over 30 years of experience in the dairy industry in Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

Tony has a PhD in Food Technology from Massey University and a Diploma in Management from New Zealand Institute of Management.

Tony previously held senior positions at Saputo and Saputo Dairy Australia as Director of Global Business Development – Whey and Ingredients, and more recently as Senior Vice President – Ingredients, Nutritionals and China.

Previous to Saputo, Tony had roles including CEO of Bodco Limited in New Zealand, General Manager of Nutritionals at Synlait Milk (ASX:SM1), General Manager of Tatura Milk Industries in Australia, and Global Health and Nutrition Portfolio Manager for Fonterra.

During his tenure as CEO for Bodco Limited his team successfully secured 2 CFDA (now known as SAMR) brand approvals.

Tony has been CEO of CBDG since March 2019 and has driven the construction of the nutritional spray dryer and the building of an experienced team in preparation for the commencement of operations.

Dr. Tony McKenna said:

“Wattle Health Australia has developed a great foundation to now become the best vertically integrated organic dairy company in Australia. I am excited to have the opportunity to lead the execution of this strategy and to deliver value to all our current and future stakeholders.”

Peter Biantes was a former Owner, Director, Finance Director and Company Secretary of leading dairy company Lemnos Foods Pty Ltd (Lemnos). Lemnos started as a small business and developed into a major dairy manufacturer with global retail distribution including outlets in China, South Korea, Indonesia and Africa supplying grocery and hospitality channels with a suite of dairy goods. Lemnos was acquired by one of the largest dairy companies in the world, European based Lactalis Group.

Peter is the current Non-Executive Director on the board of WHA and is a qualified CPA with over 40 years' experience. Peter is also a Principle of an accounting firm that specialises in management, business structure and development.

WHA Advances its Organic Growth Strategy

WHA has built the foundations to execute its organic strategy. WHA has secured exclusive supply of certified organic milk from our joint venture partners in CBDG, the Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia (ODFA), who control the largest pool of certified organic Australian fresh milk. Construction of the Australia's first dedicated organic nutritional spray dryer is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2020 with the project currently under budget. Subject to the completion of the proposed rights issue announced today, WHA will own 80% of Australia's leading and largest independent (by volume) CNCA accredited manufacturing facility.

WHA has launched its new all organic brand "Uganic" in the Australian market in September this year, with encouraging early results.

These strategic initiatives have set up WHA to diversify and significantly grow its revenue base.

CBDG Boosts Team

In preparation for the commencement of operations in the first half of 2020, CBDG have employed two highly experienced technical staff; Uday Joshi as Technical Manager and Teguh Jodjaja as Development and Quality Manager.

Uday Joshi joined the CBDG team in August 2019 and has over 13 years of experience in the dairy industry across New Zealand and Australia. Uday holds a Bachelor of Dairy Technology from the Anand Agricultural University in India and a Post Graduate Diploma of Food Technology from Massey University in New Zealand.

Uday has held various senior technical positions and is an industry expert in the field of nutritional milk powder manufacturing. Uday's previous positions include Synlait Milk technologist – new infant formula plant commissioning, Fonterra Senior Technologist and Nutritional Technical Manager at Murray Goulburn.

Teguh Jodjaja joined the Corio Bay Dairy Group in September 2019 with over 10 years of experience in the dairy industry in New Zealand and Australia.

Teguh has a Master of Science in Food Science from the University of Otago and has held Senior positions at Synlait as Senior Formulation Technologist and most recently worked with the A2 Milk Company as Senior Technical Applications Manager.

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About Wattle Health Australia

Wattle Health aspires to become a company globally recognised for offering certified organic products of superior quality that promote health and wellness at all stages of life.

We support Australian farmers who embrace sustainable organic practices and have built a supply chain that preserves the quality and traceability of our farmers' milk and subsequent products through the entire supply chain. www.wattlehealth.com.au

About Corio Bay Dairy Group

CBDG a joint venture between Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia (ODFA), Niche Dairy (ND) and WHA to build Australia's first dedicated organic spray dryer is continuing to take shape with commissioning of the plant in the first half of 2020 and is currently under budget.

CBDG has exclusive supply of certified organic fresh milk to be used in the production of certified organic nutritional powders from our partners in ODFA, with WHA having first right of refusal over all products produced by CBDG. www.cbdg.com.au