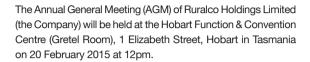


RURALCO HOLDINGS LIMITED ABN 40 009 660 879



## BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

#### **Ordinary Business**

#### 1. Financial Report for the year ended 30 September 2014

To receive and consider the Annual Financial Report of the Company and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 September 2014 including the report of the Directors, Directors' Declaration and Independent Auditors Report.

Note: There is no requirement for Shareholders to approve these reports.

# 2. Adoption of the Remuneration Report for the Year ended 30 September 2014

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an advisory resolution:

"That the Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 September 2014 (set out on pages 44-59 of the Ruralco Group Annual Report 2014) be adopted."

The Board unanimously recommends that Shareholders vote in favour of this resolution.

#### Note:

- This resolution is advisory only and does not bind the Company or the Directors.
- The Directors will consider the outcome of the vote and comments made by shareholders on the Remuneration Report at the AGM when reviewing the Company's future remuneration policies.
- If at least 25% of the votes that are cast are voted against the adoption of the Remuneration Report at two consecutive AGMs, the Company must put to the vote at the second of those AGMs a resolution (the "spill resolution") that another shareholders' meeting (the "spill meeting") be held within 90 days at which all of the Company's directors (other than the Managing Director) will cease to hold office immediately before the end of the spill meeting and will seek re-election.

#### 3. Re-Election of Directors

#### (a) Richard England

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That Richard England, who retires by rotation in accordance with clause 20.2 of the Company's Constitution, being eligible, is reelected as a Director of the Company."

Information about Mr England appears in Section 3(a) of the Explanatory Notes to this Notice of Meeting.

The Board (with Mr England abstaining) unanimously recommends you vote in favour of this resolution.

The Acting Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies in favour of Mr England's re-election.

## (b) Michael Millner

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That Michael Millner, who retires by rotation in accordance with clause 20.2 of the Company's Constitution, being eligible, is reelected as a Director of the Company."

Information about Mr Millner appears in Section 3(b) of the Explanatory Notes to this Notice of Meeting.

The Board (with Mr Millner abstaining) unanimously recommends you vote in favour of this resolution.

The Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies in favour of Mr Millner's re-election.

### (c) Ross Burney

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That Ross Burney, who retires in accordance with clause 19.4 of the Company's Constitution, being eligible and offering himself for election, is elected as a Director of the Company."

Information about Mr Burney appears in Section 3(c) of the Explanatory Notes to this Notice of Meeting.

The Board (with Mr Burney abstaining) unanimously recommends you vote in favour of this resolution.

The Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies in favour of Mr Burney's election.

#### (d) Elizabeth Johnstone

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That Elizabeth Johnstone, who retires in accordance with clause 19.4 of the Company's Constitution, being eligible and offering herself for election, is elected as a Director of the Company."

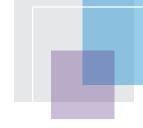
Information about Ms Johnstone appears in Section 3(d) of the Explanatory Notes to this Notice of Meeting.

The Board (with Ms Johnstone abstaining) unanimously recommends you vote in favour of this resolution.

The Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies in favour of Ms Johnstone's election.



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#### (e) Trudy Vonhoff

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That Trudy Vonhoff, who retires in accordance with clause 19.4 of the Company's Constitution, being eligible and offering herself for election, is elected as a Director of the Company."

Information about Ms Vonhoff appears in Section 3(e) of the Explanatory Notes to this Notice of Meeting.

The Board (with Ms Vonhoff abstaining) unanimously recommends you vote in favour of this resolution.

The Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies in favour of Ms Vonhoff's election.

## **VOTING EXCLUSION STATEMENT**

In accordance with the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Act), the Company will disregard any vote(s) cast on the following resolutions by the following persons:

Resolution	Persons excluded from voting
Resolution 2 – Adoption of the Remuneration Report for the Year ended 30 September 2014	The Act prohibits a member of key management personnel (KMP) and their closely related parties from voting in any capacity (eg, as a shareholder, proxy or corporate representative).¹ The 2014 Remuneration Report identifies the Company's KMP for the financial year to 30 September 2014.  The prohibition does not apply:  If the person has been appointed as a proxy by writing that specifies how the proxy is to vote on Resolution 2, provided that the person who appointed the proxy is not themselves a person subject to the prohibition.  To the Chairman of the AGM as proxy where the proxy appointment expressly authorises the Chairman of the AGM to exercise an undirected proxy. If a Shareholder appoints the Chairman of the AGM as their proxy and the Shareholder does not direct the Chairman of the AGM how to vote on Resolution 2, the Shareholder may authorise the Chairman of the AGM in respect of Resolution 2 to exercise the proxy notwithstanding that Resolution 2 is directly or indirectly with the remuneration of a member of the Company's KMP.
	The Chairman of the AGM intends to vote undirected proxies (where the Chairman has been appropriately authorised) in favour of Resolution 2.

If you do not wish to appoint the Chairman of the AGM to vote on the resolutions in the manner indicated above, the Company encourages you to complete the voting directions by marking either 'For', 'Against' or 'abstain' in the Proxy Form for the relevant resolutions.

Notes on voting and Explanatory Notes follow, and a Proxy Form is enclosed.

By order of the Board

Susannah Ball Acting Company Secretary

Dated: 12 December 2014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Key management personnel of the Company are the directors of the Company and those other persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Company, directly or indirectly. Their closely related parties are defined in the Act and include certain members of their family, dependents and companies they control.



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#### 1. Financial Reports

Resolution 1 asks Shareholders to receive and consider the Financial Reports, the reports of the Board of Directors and external auditors for the year ended 30 September 2014. The Financial Reports for consideration at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be the full Financial Report. Any Shareholder wishing to receive a copy of the full Financial Report should contact the Company's share registry, Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited (Computershare), and a copy will be provided free of charge.

A brief overview of the financial and operating performance of the Company and its controlled entities (Ruralco Group) during the year ended 30 September 2014 will be provided during the AGM.

While the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Act) requires the Annual Financial Report of the Ruralco Group, including the Report of the Directors, Directors' Declaration and Independent Auditor's Report for the year to be laid before the AGM, neither the Act nor the Company's Constitution requires shareholders to vote on, approve or adopt those reports.

Shareholders will however have the opportunity at the AGM to raise questions about or to comment on those reports and the management and performance of the Company.

Shareholders will also have a reasonable opportunity at the AGM to ask questions of the Company's external auditor, KPMG, relevant to:

- (a) the conduct of the audit;
- (b) the preparation and content of the Auditor's Report;
- (c) the accounting policies adopted by the Company in relation to the preparation of the financial statements; and
- (d) the independence of the auditor in relation to the conduct of the audit.

In addition to taking questions at the AGM, written questions to the Chairman about the management of the Company, or to the Company's Auditor about the content of the Auditor's Report or the conduct of the audit may be submitted no later than 5 business days before the date of the AGM to Computershare at the address on the enclosed reply envelope or by facsimile to +61 3 9473 2555. Shareholders may also submit their written questions directly to the Company at our registered office at 273C Kennedy Drive, Cambridge, Tasmania, 7170.

### 2. Adoption of the Remuneration Report

Pursuant to section 250R(2) of the Act, the Company is required to present the 2014 Remuneration Report to Shareholders for consideration and adoption at the AGM. The Remuneration Report is set on pages 44-59 of the Ruralco Group's Annual Report 2014. It is also available on the Company's website at www.ruralco.com.au. The report:

- explains the structure of and rationale behind the Company's remuneration practices and the link between the remuneration of employees and the Company's performance;
- sets out remuneration details for each director and for each key management person including the Company's specified executives; and

 makes clear that the basis for remunerating non-executive directors is distinct from the basis for remunerating executives, including executive directors.

A reasonable opportunity will be provided for shareholders to ask questions about, or comment on, the Remuneration Report at the AGM

The resolution is advisory only and does not bind the Company or its Directors. Of itself, a failure of Shareholders to pass Resolution 2 will not require the Directors to alter any of the arrangements in the 2014 Remuneration Report. The Board will however consider the outcome of the vote and comments made by shareholders on the Remuneration Report at the AGM when reviewing the Company's future remuneration policies.

Consequence of voting against Resolution 2

Under the Act, if at least 25% of the votes that are cast are voted against the adoption of the Remuneration Report at two consecutive AGMs, the Company must put to the vote at the second of those AGMs a resolution (the "spill resolution") that another shareholders' meeting (the "spill meeting") be held within 90 days at which all of the Company's directors (other than the Managing Director) will cease to hold office immediately before the end of the spill meeting and will seek re-election.

Noting that each Director has a personal interest in their own remuneration from the Company as described in the 2014 Remuneration Report, the Board considers that the remuneration policies adopted by the Company are appropriate and unanimously recommends that Shareholders vote in favour of Resolution 2.

## 3. Election of Directors

The Company's constitution requires that one-third of the Directors (other than the Managing Director) retire at each AGM, with re-election possible after each term. Since Mr England and Mr Millner were last elected in 2013, they retire as Directors at the end of the AGM and, each being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr Burney, Ms Johnstone and Ms Vonhoff, being new appointments to the Board, retire in accordance with clause 19.4 of the Company's Constitution and offer themselves for election, also being eligible.

The Board sets out below the profile of the Directors who are standing for re-election and election.

## 3(a). Richard A F England – FCA, MAICD

Non-executive Chair. Member of the Audit, Risk & Corporate Governance Committee, Investment Committee and the Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

Appointed to the Board as Chairman on 9 July 2002, Richard became Deputy Chairman at the time of the merger with Roberts Ltd in 2006 and was reappointed Chairman on 5 February 2007. Richard brings to the Company over 30 years' experience in the accounting and financial services profession as well as broad management experience.

Until 1984, Richard spent most of his professional career with Peat Marwick and Ernst & Young and its predecessor firms, first becoming a partner in 1982. He practiced in the areas of



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## 3(b). Michael J Millner - MAICD

Non-executive Director. Chair of the Investment Committee.

Michael was appointed a non-executive Director in 2003, he resigned in June 2006 and was re-appointed in February 2007. Michael is a director and deputy Chairman of Brickworks Limited and, until 1 October 2012, was a director and deputy Chairman of Washington H Soul Pattinson and Company Limited, a substantial shareholder in Ruralco.

Michael has extensive experience in the investment industry and is a Councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales and is Chairman of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS) Foundation.

#### 3(c). Ross Burney - B.Ec

Non-executive Director, Member of the Investment Committee and Member of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

Ross was appointed to the Board on 1 September 2014. Ross is CEO of Taverners Group and a director of Kaplan Equity Ltd. Ross is currently a director of Qube Holdings Ltd and Oncard International Ltd (Chair), and was previously a director of The Maryborough Sugar Factory Ltd (MSF Sugar) and Turners and Growers Ltd. Ross has over 20 years' experience as an accountant and investment manager, together with a deep knowledge of the agricultural supply chain.

#### 3(d). Elizabeth Johnstone - LLB, MA(Hons), BA(Hons), FAICD

Non-executive Director. Chair of the Audit, Risk & Corporate Governance Committee, Member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.

Elizabeth was appointed to the Board on 1 September 2014. Elizabeth is currently a director of ASX Compliance Pty Ltd, the KinCare Group of Companies (Chair), Macquarie University Hospital Operations Ltd and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (South East Section).

Elizabeth was previously a corporate partner and practice head for company law and governance at a top tier legal firm, and is a former Business and Professional Women's Association/QANTAS Business Woman of the Year.

## 3(e). Trudy Vonhoff – MBA, BBus (Hons), GAICD, SF Fin

Non-executive Director. Chair of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee, Member of the Audit, Risk & Corporate Governance Committee.

Appointed to the Board on 1 September 2014 Trudy brings over 30 years' experience in financial services, including senior executive positions in Westpac Banking Corporation leading the businesses of Commercial & Agribusiness Banking; Retail Banking; and Technology & Operations. Trudy is a non-Executive Director of AMP Bank Limited and Tennis NSW, and a member of the NSW Government Industry Advisory Group for Procurement.

## **NOTES**

#### **Rules of Election**

- The Board has determined the following rules to apply to the election:
  - (a) a member may vote for or against (or abstain from voting) in respect of the appointment of all or any of the candidates;
  - (b) to be elected, a candidate must receive the votes in favour of their appointment being 50% or more of all votes cast in respect of them (disregarding abstentions);
  - (c) if there are more than 2 candidates who qualify to be elected under paragraph 1b, the candidates to be appointed will be determined in the order of the number of votes in favour of their appointment (from highest to lowest); and
  - (d) if there is an equality of votes for the last position(s), the candidates to be appointed will be determined by drawing lots.

#### Determination of entitlement to attend and vote

In accordance with regulation 7.11.37 of the Corporations Regulations 2001 (Cth) and ASX Settlement Operating Rule 5.6.1, the Directors have determined that for the purposes of the AGM, Shares will be taken to be held by the persons who are registered as shareholders as at 7.00pm (Tasmanian time) on Wednesday 18 February 2015. This means that any person registered as the holder of a Share at 7.00pm (Tasmanian time) on Wednesday 18 February 2015 is entitled to attend and vote at the AGM in respect of that Share. Transactions registered after that time will be disregarded in determining the shareholders entitled to attend and vote at the AGM.

#### **Proxies**

If you are a shareholder entitled to attend and vote, you are entitled to appoint one or two proxies. Where two proxies are appointed, you may specify the number or proportion of votes that each may exercise, failing which each may exercise half of the votes. A proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company and can be an individual or a body corporate.

If you want to appoint one proxy, please use the form provided. If you want to appoint two proxies, please follow the instructions on the front page of the proxy form.

The Company's Constitution provides that, on a show of hands, every person present and qualified to vote shall have one vote. If you appoint one proxy, that proxy may vote on a show of hands, but if you appoint two proxies neither proxy may vote on a show of hands.

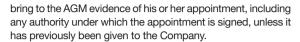
If you appoint a proxy who is also a shareholder or is also a proxy for another shareholder, your directions may not be effective on a show of hands. However your directions will be effective if a poll is required.

A body corporate appointed as a shareholder's proxy may appoint a representative to exercise any of the powers the body may exercise as a proxy at the AGM. The representative should





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To be effective the proxy form must be received by Computershare not later than 12pm (Tasmanian time) on Wednesday 18 February 2015

Proxy forms may be delivered in person, by mail or by fax to Computershare's office as follows:

#### In person:

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited Yarra Falls 452 Johnston Street Abbotsford Victoria, 3067, Australia

#### By mail:

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited GPO Box 242 Melbourne Victoria, 3001, Australia

#### By fax:

1800 783 447 (within Australia) +61 3 9473 2555 (outside Australia)

#### Body corporate representative

Any corporation wishing to appoint a person to act as representative at the AGM may do so by providing that person with:

- a "Certificate of Appointment of Corporate Representative" which can be obtained from Computershare; or
- a letter or certificate authorising the person to act as the corporation's representative in accordance with the corporation's constitution; or
- a copy of the resolution appointing the representative, certified by a secretary or director of the corporation.

#### Admission to the AGM

Shareholders who will be attending the AGM, and who will not be appointing a proxy, are asked to bring the proxy form to the AGM to help speed admission.

Shareholders who do not plan to attend the AGM are encouraged to complete and return the proxy form for each of their holdings of shares.

A replacement proxy form may be obtained from Computershare:

Telephone (within Australia) 1300 850 505 (outside Australia) +61 3 9415 4000

## Scrutineer

The Company's external auditor, KPMG will act as scrutineer for any polls that may be required at the AGM.

## Questions and comments by shareholders at the AGM

In accordance with the Act, a reasonable opportunity will be given to shareholders to ask questions about or make comments on the management of the Company at the AGM.

Similarly, a reasonable opportunity will be given to shareholders to ask the Company's external auditor, KPMG, questions relevant to:

- (a) the conduct of the audit;
- (b) the preparation and content of the auditor's report;
- (c) the accounting policies adopted by the Company in relation to the preparation of its financial statements; and
- (d) the independence of the auditor in relation to the conduct of the audit.

Shareholders may also submit a written question to KPMG if the question is relevant to the content of KPMG's audit report or the conduct of its audit of Ruralco's financial report for the year ended 30 September 2014.

Relevant written questions for KPMG must be received at least 5 business days prior to the AGM (i.e. by no later than 4pm (Tasmanian time) on Friday 13 February 2015). A list of relevant written questions will be made available to shareholders attending the AGM. KPMG will either answer the questions at the AGM or table written answers to them at the AGM. If written answers are tabled at the AGM, they will be made available to shareholders as soon as practicable after the AGM

Please send any written questions for KPMG:

- to Computershare at the address on the enclosed reply envelope;
- to Computershare by facsimile to +61 3 9473 2555; or
- to the Company at our registered office
- 273C Kennedy Drive, Cambridge TAS 7170

by no later than 4pm (Tasmanian time) on Friday 13 February 2015.





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## Lodge your vote:

Online:

www.investorvote.com.au



## By Mail:

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited GPO Box 242 Melbourne Victoria 3001 Australia

Alternatively you can fax your form to (within Australia) 1800 783 447 (outside Australia) +61 3 9473 2555

For Intermediary Online subscribers only (custodians) www.intermediaryonline.com

## For all enquiries call:

(within Australia) 1300 850 505 (outside Australia) +61 3 9415 4000

## **Proxy Form**



## Vote and view the annual report online

- •Go to www.investorvote.com.au or scan the QR Code with your mobile device.
- Follow the instructions on the secure website to vote.

## Your access information that you will need to vote:

Control Number: 999999

SRN/HIN: 19999999999 PIN: 99999

PLEASE NOTE: For security reasons it is important that you keep your SRN/HIN confidential.



For your vote to be effective it must be received by 12pm (Tasmanian time) Wednesday, 18 February 2015

## How to Vote on Items of Business

All your securities will be voted in accordance with your directions.

## **Appointment of Proxy**

Voting 100% of your holding: Direct your proxy how to vote by marking one of the boxes opposite each item of business. If you do not mark a box your proxy may vote or abstain as they choose (to the extent permitted by law). If you mark more than one box on an item your vote will be invalid on that item.

Voting a portion of your holding: Indicate a portion of your voting rights by inserting the percentage or number of securities you wish to vote in the For, Against or Abstain box or boxes. The sum of the votes cast must not exceed your voting entitlement or

Appointing a second proxy: You are entitled to appoint up to two proxies to attend the meeting and vote on a poll. If you appoint two proxies you must specify the percentage of votes or number of securities for each proxy, otherwise each proxy may exercise half of the votes. When appointing a second proxy write both names and the percentage of votes or number of securities for each in Step 1 overleaf.

A proxy need not be a securityholder of the Company.

## Signing Instructions for Postal Forms

Individual: Where the holding is in one name, the securityholder must sign.

Joint Holding: Where the holding is in more than one name, all of the securityholders should sign.

Power of Attorney: If you have not already lodged the Power of Attorney with the registry, please attach a certified photocopy of the Power of Attorney to this form when you return it.

Companies: Where the company has a Sole Director who is also the Sole Company Secretary, this form must be signed by that person. If the company (pursuant to section 204A of the Corporations Act 2001) does not have a Company Secretary, a Sole Director can also sign alone. Otherwise this form must be signed by a Director jointly with either another Director or a Company Secretary. Please sign in the appropriate place to indicate the office held. Delete titles as applicable.

## Attending the Meeting

Bring this form to assist registration. If a representative of a corporate securityholder or proxy is to attend the meeting you will need to provide the appropriate "Certificate of Appointment of Corporate Representative" prior to admission. A form of the certificate may be obtained from Computershare or online at www.investorcentre.com under the help tab, "Printable Forms".

Comments & Questions: If you have any comments or questions for the company, please write them on a separate sheet of paper and return with this form.

GO ONLINE TO VOTE, or turn over to complete the form



	Change of address. If incorrect,
ш	mark this box and make the
	correction in the space to the left.
	Securityholders sponsored by a
	broker (reference number
	commences with 'X') should advise
	your broker of any changes.



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Proxy I	Form
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Please mark **X** to indicate your directions

I/We be	• •	xy to Vote on Your Behalf Ruralco Holdings Limited hereby as	point		X
	ne Chairman f the Meeting OR			PLEASE NOTE: Le you have selected Meeting. Do not ins	eave this box blank the Chairman of the sert your own name(
to act ge to the ex Function	nerally at the Meeting o tent permitted by law, a & Convention Centre (	orporate named, or if no individual or body n my/our behalf and to vote in accordance s the proxy sees fit) at the Annual General Gretel Room), 1 Elizabeth Street, Hobart in conement of that Meeting.	with the following direction Meeting of Ruralco Holdin	ns (or if no directions hangs Limited to be held a	ave been given, a at the Hobart
the Meet proxy on	ing as my/our proxy (or Item 2 (except where I/	ise undirected proxies on remuneration the Chairman becomes my/our proxy by d we have indicated a different voting intenti f key management personnel, which include	efault), I/we expressly aut on below) even though Ite	horise the Chairman to	exercise my/our
		n of the Meeting is (or becomes) your prox appropriate box in step 2 below.	y you can direct the Chair	man to vote for or agair	nst or abstain from
2	Items of Busin	PLEASE NOTE: If you mark the behalf on a show of hands or a			required majority
				€0 <sup>(</sup>	Against Abstain
tem 2	Adoption of the Remun	eration Report for the Year ended 30 Septem	ber 2014		
tem 3a	Re-Election of Director	- Richard England			
tem 3b	Re-Election of Director	- Michael Millner			
tem 3c	Election of Director - Ro	oss Burney			
tem 3d	Election of Director - El	izabeth Johnstone			
Item 3e	Election of Director - Tr	udy Vonhoff			
		s to vote undirected proxies in favour of each iter y resolution, in which case an ASX announcement		circumstances, the Chairm	an of the Meeting m
N	Signature of S	securityholder(s) This section mi	ust be completed.		
Individua	l or Securityholder 1	Securityholder 2	Sec	urityholder 3	



**Director/Company Secretary** 



Contact

Name

**Sole Director and Sole Company Secretary** 

Contact

Daytime

Telephone

Director