

New board takes over grower company

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THE official handover from the people who structured value-adding company Free Eyre to the board that will guide it in the future took place on Friday.

Free Eyre has transformed into a company involving eight board directors, after the steering committee officially handed over control last Friday.

A steering committee was formed following public meetings in November last year, and \$830,000 was subsequently pledged from 300 people, to form a publicly unlisted company.

Interim executive officer Cecilia Woolford said 14 people on the initial steering committee officially handed over to the eight board directors last Friday.

Ms Woolford said the board also held its first meeting, and is due to hand down the company's prospectus in a month.

She said the eight directors are a diverse range of people, including accountants, farmers and business people with a lot of experience.

Board members are businesswoman Sue Chase, Yeelanna farmer Adrian Glover, accountant Kerry Hanel, grain-trading expert Chris Lehmann, Cleve farmer Ben Ranford, award-winning manager Susi Tegen, business adviser Mike Tilley, and farmer and entrepreneur Mike Wake.

Board director and Cleve farmer Ben Ranford, who was part of the initial steering committee, said the day represented just how far the group had come since an initial public meeting floated the idea in November 2006.

"We've gone from a vision to a company with a board of directors in only six months," Mr Ranford said.

"I was very happy to be on the steering committee because I feel strongly about the need to have a company like Free Eyre to make the region more sustainable and profitable."

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