

Farm group board expands

FREE Eyre has increased the size of its board by two, with the addition of Cummins farmer Jarrod Phelps and business person Robert Paterson.

FREE Eyre chairman Michael Tilley said the board had the intention to increase its size for some time to provide more capacity and skill as the business ideas and joint ventures were developed.

"With the EP Grain joint venture now in operation, the time is right to increase our skills base to suit the projects we have set up and are working on," Mr Tilley said.

Mr Phelps has been a director of Cummins and District Financial Services for the past four years, and has been involved with the family farming business since 1994 after completing his Bachelor

of Applied Science and Agriculture.

"Jarrod brings a very good understanding of grass roots issues and ideas from next generation farmers. We welcome his enthusiasm," Mr Tilley said.

Robert (Paterson) has worked for accountants Arthur Anderson, has been the managing director/financial controller for Cornell Investments, Rycroft Vineyards, Grant Burge Wines, Kirribilly Wines and management consultant for various start up companies.

"He brings experience and skills in governance, logistics and distribution, high level strategic planning and financial acumen."
In addition, FREE Eyre has also appointed

Kimba farmer and FREE Eyre steering committee inaugural chair David Jericho as another FREE Eyre representative on the EP Grain joint venture board.

Adrian Glover recently resigned from the FREE Eyre and EP Grain Boards for personal reasons.

With the development of other businesses like the meat value adding venture in the process of being planned in conjunction with the Eyre Regional Development Board, Meat and Livestock Australia and Primary Industry SA and three Oil Mallee trials up and running, Mr Tilley said FREE Eyre was well placed to grow.

The group has added another 75 farmers as shareholders over the past few months.