

## AgriFutures Performance Review: Consultants' biographies

### **Scott Williams**

BVSc, BSc(Vet), MVS (Ag Animal Med Prod), Grad Dip Mgmt AGSM, Grad Dip Strategic Foresight, GAICD, Williamson Fellow – Director, Forest Hill Consulting

Scott has led six corporate performance reviews of RDCs: for LiveCorp, APL, FWPA, AWI, SRA and DA.

This experience is supported by over 20 years' working within AWI and as a consultant to a number of Rural RDCs, including (in addition to the above) Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd and AgriFutures. Scott's clients also include peak industry bodies, government agencies, farmer innovation groups and commercial companies. Prior to joining AWI Scott was a livestock veterinarian, farm consultant and veterinary technical officer with a major pharmaceutical firm. He has conducted a number of projects overseas.

Scott has strong skills in corporate governance, business design, strategic planning, portfolio management, *ex-ante* and *ex-post* project evaluation and commercialisation or extension of project outcomes. He is recognised for his strong oral and written communications skills and workshop facilitation. Scott is a Board member of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, a member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute and former Board member of the Committee for Ballarat.

### **Russell Pattinson (Miracle Dog)**

BAGSc (Hons), MappSc – Director, Miracle Dog

Russell has had a 30+ year career in agribusiness, initially in the sheep and wool industry, including executive management experience in RD&E (Group Manager, On Farm R&D, Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation) and marketing / operations (Group Manager, Australasian Operations, The Woolmark Company).

Over the last 17 years, as Director of Miracle Dog Pty Ltd, Russell has undertaken numerous and varied consultancy roles covering most agricultural sectors with a strong focus on strategic and operational planning, R&D management and evaluation, business performance and workshop facilitation. During this time, he has worked with many rural RDCs including AWI, MLA, LiveCorp, Land & Water Australia, FWPA, SRA, DA, Hort Innovation and APL. He has also worked across the grains, grape and wine, and rice industries and undertaken projects for Cooperative Research Centres, State and Federal Governments, private agribusiness companies and industry organisations.

Russell is the Chair of three national wool industry committees, has excellent networks throughout the agricultural sector and is a company director.

### **Chris Wilcox**

BAGSc (Hons), MAgSc (Economics) – Director, Poimena Analysis

Chris has 35 years' experience in economic and market analysis (including the conduct of benefit-cost analyses), mainly in Australian agribusiness including the wool, sheepmeat, dairy, cattle and pig industries. He has over 25 years' experience in senior or mid-level management positions, including high-level decision making and advice to company Boards, Ministers and to members of Government and Parliament. He also has eight years' experience as a company director.

Chris is currently the Principal of Poimena Analysis; Non-executive Board Director of the Australian Wool Testing Authority (including Chairman, Environment and Safety Board Committee; Member, Audit and Finance Board Committee); Chairman of the Market Intelligence Committee, International Wool Textile Organisation; Executive Director, National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia; Wool Economist for the American Sheep Industries' Association; a member of the Australian Agricultural and

Resource Economics Society; and analyst, secretary and co-ordinator for the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee.

Chris' experience includes strategic and market analysis of the global market and product opportunities for companies and industries, designing and conducting industry market research projects and surveys, trade access assessment and trade policy developments, policy analysis and advice in the Victorian and Australian dairy industry, project management of market and economic analysis and industry market research, conducting benefit-cost analyses for projects, and micro-economic analysis research applied to agricultural and textile industries to assess projects (pre- and post-investment) to aid and guide investment.

### **Dr Alex Ball**

PhD, BRurSci (Hons I), GAICD, Fellow Australian Rural Leadership Foundation – Director, Rural Analytics

Alex has been a key contributor to the agricultural industries, especially in red meat, over the last 22 years. During that period, he has acquired acknowledged skills in RD&E program management facilitation, strategy development and implementation, project management, portfolio analysis and corporate governance. Alex maintains an active interest in R&D publications and is the author of 3 book chapters and over 70 refereed journal articles. He is an Adjunct Professor at the UNE and co-supervises several PhD students. He is also a non-executive board member of two not-for-profit organisations.

Prior to establishing Rural Analytics in 2018, Alex was employed as CEO and company secretary of Herefords Australia. Alex was previously employed with MLA for 18 years and has held roles such as National Manager for Sheep Genetics, Sheep and Southern R&D, Southern Production and Eating Quality and Lean Meat Yield R&D and then as General Manager Livestock Productivity that encompassed work on genetics, objective carcass measurement, and Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Optimisation and Index. His last role at MLA was as General Manager of Red Meat Innovation which included roles such as the Sheep CRC executive, Chair of the National Sheep Forecasting Committee, Chair of the Lamb Supply Chain group, Chair of the Beef Language Review, Chair of the MSA taskforce and the National Livestock Genetics Consortium.