
Monday, 19 December 2011

FORMER MP TO LEAD CITRUS REVITALISATION

A former House of Representatives Speaker, the Hon Neil Andrew, has been appointed chair of the working party tasked with developing a new progressive structure for South Australia's \$357 million citrus industry.

Agriculture Minister Gail Gago said as a citrus grower and former MP, Mr Andrew was an ideal candidate to lead the Citrus Industry Transition Working Party.

"Mr Andrew is a well known and respected member of the community, particularly in the Riverland, where the majority of our South Australian citrus industry is based," Ms Gago said.

"He is a highly credible former member of various horticultural commodity and community groups, and has a strong grasp of the issues industry is facing.

"I have met with Mr Andrew to discuss the terms of reference of the working party and its role in scoping a new and united direction for South Australian citrus.

"This will include resolving the issues stakeholders have raised around duplication and inefficiencies, as a result of having two state-based representative groups."

Ms Gago said the working party would assist industry to move towards a new and improved cohesive industry structure over the next six months.

"The working party will build a new representative group with a broad base and a united structure to develop a better working relationship with all stakeholders, including the national peak body Citrus Australia," she said.

Other members appointed to the working party are:

- Richie Roberts, Costa Exchange
- Betty Lloyd, grower
- Jeff Knispel, Nippy's Fruit Juice
- Cathy Lowe, Amaroo Orchards
- Peter Hill, grower
- Judith Damiani, Citrus Australia

Earlier this year former Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien commissioned former District Court Judge Alan Moss to review the structure and legislative arrangements that govern the citrus industry.

Mr Moss interviewed 62 stakeholders and reviewed 22 written submissions from industry representatives.

“I’ve looked at his report and met key stakeholders, and formed my own view based on all of the relevant considerations,” Ms Gago said.

“I want the transition working group to develop a contemporary model that forges a new direction for citrus in South Australia.”

A copy of the report is available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/citrusreview