



Melissa De Bortoli, Bilbul NSW Rice Marketing Board Elections 2021

Question 1.

Please identify what you believe to be the three (3) most significant issues facing our industry over the next 5-10 years.

As a rice grower, my long-term commitment is to address these three key issues, for a stable, resilient, and sustainable industry.

The Best Price for Rice: It's critically important that all growers get the best price for their rice. As growers, we need pricing to be released early in the season. Then the best possible decisions in purchasing water can be made to ensure that rice is our summer crop of choice.

Invest in New Rice Varieties: Faster turn-around of investments in Research and Development creates better opportunities for producing new rice varieties with higher water efficiencies, which inputs cost improvements for growers. Fast-tracking water saving technologies and farming methods strengthens the rice industry.

Stronger Lobbying for Water: The matter of water policy firmly highlights the issue of food security. Strong and sustained lobbying of governments on water allocations will mean that water supply is guaranteed for growers.

Question 2.

What skills and experience do you have to address the issues you have identified.

As a fellow rice grower and an executive-level Management Accountant, I bring people and accountancy together for increased productivity, reduced costs, and improved environmental outcomes.

Being a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, I have an in-depth understanding at board-level of; commercial risk, financial governance and legislative compliance standards. This depth of knowledge and understanding is exactly the expertise that rice growers need today as their Rice Marketing Board Grower Director representative.

I'm highly experienced in creating people-led and environmentally sustainable solutions for complex food manufacturing organisations through rigorous financial analysis and genuine business partnerships.

I am articulate and stand strong on the important issues that rice farmers bring forward to their Board. With direct 'on the ground' experience as part of a large farming family, I know how to fight for growers to secure the right price - so rice remains competitive with other crops.