

Governing Board

The Committee is responsible for the development of the strategic direction of the organisation and is ultimately responsible for all functions undertaken at the organisation including governance and reporting to relevant Ministers and government agencies.

Governing Committee Members

Karen Hensgen, Independent Chair

Karen is the founder of Hensgen Advisory and has 25 years of experience in financial management, consultancy and business advisory, enabling her to draw upon a broad range of skills, knowledge and experiences from many industries.

The various positions and organisations Karen has worked with during her career has enabled her to develop extensive experience in the agricultural and food industries, and networks focusing on regional issues and opportunities.

Karen's business advisory positions and clients have ranged from corporate businesses in the citrus, table grape, stone fruit, nut and wine grape industries, banking, manufacturing and government funded organisations.

Karen's qualifications include a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Certified Practicing Accountant and Public Practice Certification (CPA Australia). Karen's current memberships include Chairperson of Mildura Rural City Council Audit Committee, Branch Councilor with Sunraysia CPA Council and Trustee for Mallee Health Foundation.

Karen is the independent Chair of the Committee.

Vince DeMaria, Citrus Industry Representative

Vince is a third-generation citrus, wine grape grower and citrus packer. With his family Vince manages a 120-hectare property at Mourquong in New South Wales.

Vince's has a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from the Flinders University of South Australia. Vince was a Director of Sunraysia Citrus Growers between 2007 and 2016 including seven years as Chairman.

Vince is particularly interested in irrigation issues and has been a Director and Secretary of the Mourquong Co-operative Rural Society Limited since 2002.

Vince believes that research and development and implementation of new technologies are crucial to the future of the citrus industry. The challenge is to turn efficiency gains into continued financial benefits for citrus growers.

Vince is a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub Committee and Chair (from 17 May 2017) of the Operations, Strategy and Technical Sub Committee.

Hani Vanden Byllaardt – Citrus Industry Representative

Hani was born and raised in a farming community in Israel where citrus was one of the largest commodities. The fruit was sold under the famous Jaffa brand. Hani migrated to Australia in 1995 and together with her husband, lived and worked in Agricultural regions throughout Australia.

In 2010 Hani and her husband and other investors purchased a citrus and mango business named Seven Fields. This business became one of the largest and most commercially viable citrus operations in Australia. The business was sold in December 2010 and Hani continues her role overseeing all quality aspects of the packing for both domestic and export markets.

Hani is a member of the Operations, Strategy and Technical Sub Committee and Communications Sub Committee.

Michael Tempini – Stone Fruit Industry Representative

Michael owns and manages a stone fruit orchard located in the Lake Boga region of North West Victoria. After university he was employed with the National Australia Bank.

Returning to the farm he completed a diploma in International Trade and a Diploma of Horticulture.

Michael has also been captain of the local fire brigade for eight years and is President of the Swan Hill Summer Fruit Association.

Michael is a member (previously Chair until the 17th May 2017) of the Operations, Strategy and Technical Sub Committee and Communications Sub Committee.

Joelene Williams – Stone Fruit Industry Representative

Joelene comes from a family farm in the Tresco region of Northwest Victoria; she holds a Bachelor Degree in Science from Monash University. Prior to returning to the family farm Joelene worked at the Melbourne wholesale market for 6 years.

Joelene works with the family operation, which includes a 250-acre stone fruit property specialising mostly in apricots, and manages the family owned integrated packing facility.

Joelene is also a member of the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee.

Joelene is a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub Committee and Operations, Strategy and Technical Sub Committee.

Jeff Scott – Table Grape Industry Representative

Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Table Grape Association (ATGA) since 2005. During this time the ATGA has been able to gain market access into key Asian markets of China, Japan and South Korea.

Market access and market maintenance has been a major priority of the ATGA objectives over the past 10 years and Jeff has taken a lead role in achieving those objectives. Jeff regularly attends bilateral meetings between Australia and overseas countries in pursuit of new market access and improvements to existing protocols.

A major discussion point in all of those bilateral negotiations has been the recognition of Sunraysia as a pest free area. Jeff has been instrumental in being involved with the GSPFA since its inception in 2007.

Jeff is the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub Committee.