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New directors broaden timber company's skill base

Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers Ltd (KIPT) has appointed two new directors to its board. Board chairman Paul McKenzie said the new directors would closely align the board's skills with the strategic direction of the company.

"KIPT is developing a cost-effective route to market for its timber assets on Kangaroo Island and these changes are part of that process," he said.

The new directors are Shauna Black and Graham Holdaway.

Ms Black has lived in Kingscote for almost 10 years and brings local knowledge to the board. Like most people on the Island, she was keen to help reach a resolution for the mature timber plantations. She was previously the Managing Editor of *The Islander* and now operates her own media and project management business - Black Stump Media.

Mr Holdaway is an experienced non-executive director, having served on boards of natural resources companies with operations in Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom. He is a former partner of KPMG. Mr Holdaway is from a farming background and is a treegrower in his own right, with eucalypt and radiata pine plantations in Victoria and on Kangaroo Island. He is based in regional Victoria.

Recent board changes also included the resignation of Fred Woollard. Mr Woollard served for seven years on the board but was stepping aside to pursue other business interests. He remains a substantial shareholder in KIPT.

In thanking him for his service, Mr McKenzie said that Mr Woollard deserved much of the credit for the current good standing of the company.

KIPT and New Forests, as the two major owners of timber assets on Kangaroo Island, plan to approach the State Government this year with a single preferred deep water port site (either Ballast Head or Smith Bay) and a design for a multi-user facility that would benefit the whole community.

Mr McKenzie said securing a route to market for the timber would enable the timber industry to employ more than 100 people directly on Kangaroo Island, in harvesting, hauling, milling and treating, marshalling, scaling (measuring) and loading. There would also be jobs during the construction and roadmaking phase.