

Following the organisational review commissioned by WAFIC in 2013 and the subsequent recommendations flowing from that review the WAFIC Board has chartered a new course for the organisation. This includes a most important narrowing of focus and relinquishing some roles previously undertaken.



Much of this has to do with the need for WAFIC to ensure that whatever it does it does well and, in a highly professional manner. That is not possible when we try to achieve many things and spread our limited resources across the ground too thinly.

The Board has decided that the focus of WAFIC will be on the following key areas: resource access; community acceptance (social licence to operate); and communications including key stakeholder engagement.

To achieve this the Board has approved a restructure of the organisation (see CEO memo 12 March) and this has seen the following changes. The Research Development and Extension (R, D & E) Unit has been disbanded: the two positions within that unit have been made redundant; and the WAFIC R, D & E sub-committee dissolved until further notice.

As a result of these changes WAFIC no longer has a direct or hands-on involvement with R, D & E projects, i.e., we will not be doing the research work. We will however still be the funnel for R, D & E ideas and needs to ensure that these do get considered and included in R, D & E planning processes and consideration by research providers and managers.

To achieve this we recommend that R, D & E ideas and initiatives are provided to WAFIC through a number of options including: the Annual Management Meetings run by WAFIC's Industry Consultation Unit; your Sector Peak Body; via email to reception@wafic.org.au; and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded Empowering Industry website (www.empoweringindustry.com). The WA Fisheries Research Advisory Body will continue to provide advice to the FRDC on priorities identified through the above channels and other avenues.

As one of the priority recommendations from the 2013 review, WAFIC has engaged an Operations Manager to fulfill the important task of managing the internal processes within the organisation. Stage 2 of the restructure will see the addition of a Communications Officer to implement a newly adopted Communications Plan. This position will also have carriage of oil and gas issues impacting on fisheries and a range of other roles including the national harmonization of commercial vessel safety requirements, biosecurity, etc.

Finally, the Board has approved the establishment of the Annual Industry Forum. This will be held around October each year and will coincide with the AGM however it will provide an opportunity for WAFIC to invite guest speakers on issues of a topical nature to provide an opportunity for our members/stakeholders to raise issues of importance to them and to gain insight into matters of interest. It is our expectation that the AIF will grow into a flagship event over time.

For points on clarification please contact our CEO John Harrison: ceo@wafic.org.au or 94327701.

Regards

Arno Verboon
Chairman

