



WAFIC FISHING
PEARLING
AQUACULTURE

WAFIC Board Communique NO. 13 – 14 July 2017

At the Board meeting in March the Directors reflected on the contribution the Hon Kim Chance made to the fishing industry – as a parliamentarian, Fisheries Minister and most recently Chairman of the WAFIC Board. The Board noted Kim's contribution and he had a vast influence of the fishing industry championing the cause of sustainable fishing. As WAFIC's first truly independent Chair, he led us through an important transitional period. Vale Kim.

Also at the 24 March Board meeting the Board discussed the investment opportunity presented by Robyn Birch from "Buy West Eat Best". The Board had some concerns with the proposal's supermarket focus and wanted further information for the initiative prior to committing. After further research and negotiations by WAFIC staff the Board supported a revised proposal to promote WA seafood, at the 18 April Board meeting.

The WAFIC Board also agreed to fund further office renovations which included a WRLC office suite. Further work will be done on this by WAFIC staff, out of session. The Board made two appointments to the Building Community Support sub-committee to ensure adequate Board representation on the committee. They were myself as Chair and Nathan Adams as committee member.

The Board decided an open forum with an independent facilitator will be held prior to the 2017 AGM to promote general discussion of issues allowing the AGM to solely cover off on the matters required by the WAFIC Constitution and legislation. The DG of the Department of Primary Industry and Regional development, Ralph Addis, and DDG of the Division of Fisheries (DPIRD) Heather Brayford will attend the forum at a specified time. The Board also decided to hold the Board meeting which follows the AGM on soon after the AGM in order to appoint the Sub-committee memberships and address any issues raised at the forum. Related to this was the Board's decision to trial two 20 minute slots for members to address the Board at each Board meeting – this initiative will commence in October.

The Board took this opportunity to comment on the choices for the appointment to the new SIA Board of Directors and noted while it was skill based from all aspects of the supply chain they were disappointed there were no WA Directors which will mean additional work for the WAFIC CEO.

The Board noted the increase in the use of social media since January 2017 and committed to providing contributions to the WAFIC Facebook page.

At the 18 April Board meeting the Board discussed the various options open to them for filling the casual vacancy left by Chairman Kim Chance. I decided that with the support of the Board I could continue as Chairman until the next AGM but would not go past the AGM. I am cognizant of the desire for an independent Chairman but particularly with a new Minister, there was a need for WAFIC to have stability and to secure funding. The Board concurred and appointed me as Chair. The Board appointed Arno Verboon to the Directors casual vacancy position, until the next AGM. As a result of Arno's appointment I stepped down as Chair of the BCS sub-committee and was replaced by Arno Verboon.

The board also confirmed the full membership application from Fremantle Octopus Pty Ltd.

The Board discussed potential implications of the key points delivered by the Director General in a recent presentation to the Board and covered: online facilities for reporting and transfer systems, co-management, innovation (ICT pathway) optimising on the multi portfolios of the Minister (Science, ICT and fisheries), providing help to manage the south coast, post the review, relationship building with Recfishwest and deliverables for the next funding agreement.

For most of the year there has been a strong focus on the development of the Southern Seafood Producers Association project which WAFIC commissioned and subsequently engaged Peter Rogers. At the June Board meeting the Board supported an investment of \$750,000, over three years, for the development of southern fisheries representation, including development and implementation of the Southern Seafood Producers (WA) Association.

Since then WAFIC and WRLC Boards have also agreed to fund a scoping study on the merits of a Statutory Management Authority as fit for purpose across all, or a subsection of WA fisheries.

Clayton Nelson

Chairman
July 2017