

## MEETING SUMMARY: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The thirty fourth meeting (BM34) of WHA's Board took place on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 via virtual meeting.

Members of the Board are:

- Peter Bridgewater (Chair), Chair
- Cameron Bell (Deputy Chair), Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Sharon Kolek, Funding Member, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
- Sarah Britton, nominee of the Animal Health Committee
- Michelle Campbell-Ward, Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members
- Andrew Pearce, nominee of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
  - Leanne Wicker, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia [Apology]
  - Julien Grosmaire, Australian Veterinary Conversation Biologists
  - Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency [Apology]
- James Newman, Invited Active Observer (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water).

The Board are developing a theory of change for WHA as a strategic priority for the organisation. The theory of change is based on WildPLAN, the WHA strategic vision for wildlife health in Australia ([HERE](#)) and has been linked to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as agreed at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 ([HERE](#)). The intention is to focus all WHA's activities on its purpose and delivery of outputs and outcomes in a simple format that is readily understandable for multiple audiences, with additional background information to provide context, where beneficial. This is a very high and ongoing priority for the board, and it is hoped once finalised, will provide clarity and purpose to both staff and a wide stakeholder network.

The board were updated on the ongoing activities of WHA, alongside the Commonwealth Government, in response to the High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) global situation. Outbreaks in the northern hemisphere have triggered additional preparedness and communication activities in Australia in preparation for the seasonal migration of wild birds later in the year.

The transition of WHA from an Incorporated Association to a public company limited by guarantee is progressing, with a constitution drafted. The updated drafted constitution was presented to the board for consideration and feedback received will be incorporated into further changes. The constitution acts as a contract between the organisation, its board and its members and must remain legally compliant while also serving the needs of the organisation as it transitions to the new entity. Members will continue to be updated on the process, and the new constitution will be provided for member consideration as a Special Resolution later this year.

For more information on anything that occurred during the meeting please contact your representative on the board, the CEO (0438 755 078) or WHA Public Officer, Karen Magee (02 9960 6333).

