

MEETING SUMMARY: 19th July 2023

The thirty fifth meeting (BM35) of WHA's Board took place on 19th July 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 (Apology)
- Mary Carr, nominee of the Animal Health Committee (Apology)
- 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
 - Julien Grosmaire, Australian Veterinary Conversation Biologists
 - Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency
- James Newman, Invited Active Observer (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water).

As well as routine business, the Board were updated on a number of high priority activities underway within the organisations including the establishment of WHA as a [World Animal Health Organisation \(WOAH\) collaborating centre](#) in the area of wildlife disease risk management, specialising in drivers of emerging risk for Australia and the Indo-Pacific region (WOAH Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Disease Risk Management [Indo-Pacific]), and updated Communications and Marketing plans for FY2023/24. Establishment of WHA as part of the WOAH international collaborating centres network is an exciting development and highly significant achievement for Australia. The Board will receive updates as part of its routine meetings as the Centre looks to establish itself and its work program.

The transition of WHA from an Incorporated Association to a public company limited by guarantee is progressing, and the near-complete Constitution will be provided to the Register of Environmental Organisations to seek endorsement and confirm retention of the organisation's Deductible Gift Recipient Status. The new constitution will be provided for member's 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).