

MEETING SUMMARY: 20th November 2024

The forty-second meeting (BM42) of WHA's Board took place virtually on 20th November 2024.

Members of the Board are:

- Richard Russell, Chairperson
- Cameron Bell, Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Sharon Kolek, Funding Member, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Michelle Campbell-Ward, Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members (apology)
- Michelle Rodan, Animal Health Committee Representative
- Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
 - o Leanne Wicker, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia
 - o Julien Grosmaire, Australian Veterinary Conversation Biologists (apology)
 - o Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association

This was a routine meeting of the Board with notable items discussed including the 2050 Vision strategic planning project, Business Advisory Services and the recent Australian government announcement of funding related to High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI).

The 2050 Vision project is currently out with stakeholders for consultation and engagement into WHA's future desired state and strategic directions. Consultation will continue until early December, after which time the board-led Strategic Working Group will distil the feedback into the currently drafted strategic directions. The organisation continues to work towards a new strategic framework from July 2025.

The organisation has recently engaged a consultant to assist with the strategic priorities of funding sustainability and diversification. The Board were presented with the final report and recommendations from these activities and considered the alignment of those recommendations in conjunction with the 2050 Vision project.

The Board also discussed the recently announced Australian government funding for HPAI, of which \$7 million was committed to WHA. The funding presents an opportunity for surveillance and preparedness activities to be enhanced further, and to bolster activities across all programs currently undertaken by the organisation. The Board, with input from WHA's Senior Management Team, considered an initial response plan to the funding announcement.

Board members present also participated in a facilitator led workshop, with the purpose to strategically align the desired outcomes of the 2050 Vision project, Business Advisory Services and HPAI funding. The workshop allowed the Board to achieve a shared understanding of important 'pillars' the organisation should be focusing on, in the context of the three notable discussion topics, and to provide strategic leadership to the WHA team.

As always, the Board is very grateful for the continued efforts of the staff and members of WHA in increasing the visibility of, and advocating for, wildlife and wildlife health for the country. For more information on anything that occurred during the meeting please contact your representative on the Board, the CEO (0438 755 078) or Company Secretary, Karen Magee (02 9960 6333).

