

MEETING SUMMARY: 17th June 2020

The Twenty First meeting (MC21) of WHA's Committee of Management took place on 17th June, 2020 via teleconference.

Members of the Management Committee (MC) are:

- Ian Thompson, Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer (Chair)
- David Phalen, Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members
- Kevin de Witte, Chief Veterinary Officer of Tasmania and nominee of the Animal Health Committee
- Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
 - Anna Meredith, Wildlife Health Victoria
 - Andrew Peters, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia
 - Australian Veterinary Conservation Biologists (Casual Vacancy) and;
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency.
- Tamara Riley, Invited Member, Indigenous perspective (Apology).

MC21 was a routine quarterly meeting of the MC and included Leanne Wicker (Wildlife Diseases Association Australasia, Invited Active Observer), Rupert Woods (Chief Executive Officer - CEO) and Karen Magee (Administration Manager and Public Officer – PO/Minutes). The primary purpose of the meeting was to endorse the draft 2021 financial year budget. Due to additional revenue received as a result of COVID-19 government financial stimulus packages and some savings due to cancellation of several face to face meetings, WHA has been able commit funds to examine expansion of national surveillance activities to allow addition of more contributors to support biodiversity and environment-type issues. It was also agreed to contribute \$40K towards implementation of a steering committee to help guide development of the proposed Australian Wildlife Health Institute (AWHI).

There was discussion around WHA's bushfire response, a proposed new group called Veterinary Emergency Management Australia (VEMA), and development of national guidelines to support response. The future role for WHA was discussed. Activities could include coordination and mobilisation of national resources, production of national guidelines and standards and/or provision of training. WHA will maintain a watching brief on developments and continue support the various parties currently undertaking work whilst a decision on future direction is made by the Australian government.

The Management Committee discussed a casual vacancy following the retirement of the Australian Veterinary Conservation Biologists representative, Robert Johnson. WHA is grateful to Robert for his many years of service to furthering wildlife health in this country and the Committee extended its best wishes to Robert in retirement. Consensus was reached on filling this position, an invitation will be provided to the nominated individual, and an update will be made available to members as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the MC is scheduled for Thursday 24th September, 2020. For more information please contact your representative on the MC, the CEO (0438 755 078) or WHA Public Officer, Karen Magee (02 9960 6333).