

MEETING SUMMARY: 18th November 2020

The Twenty Third meeting (MC23) of WHA's Committee of Management took place on 18th November 2020 via virtual meeting.

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
 - Phil Tucak, Australian Veterinary Conservation Biologists (Casual Vacancy)
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency
- Tamara Riley, Invited Member, Indigenous perspective.
- Leanne Wicker, Invited Observer

MC23 was a routine quarterly meeting of the MC. The MC spent time considering the potential formation of a World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health and Biodiversity as a potential future model for the national system. It is a substantial task to become a collaborating centre and incurs significant responsibilities. WHA does not have the resources or capacity alone to be a collaborating centre and the MC decided that a position statement on formation including potential resources required, challenges, and opportunities that this could bring to Australia be developed. This was the last meeting for long serving member Andrew Peters, who has completed the maximum number of terms allows for a MC member, and Kevin de Witte, who hands over AHC representative duties to the outgoing AHC chair. Ian Thompson thanked Andrew and Kevin for their service and invited them to provide advice to the MC for the future. Kevin emphasized the complexity and changing nature of the biosecurity space and the fact that WHA is held up as an example of how to do business within Australia's national biosecurity system and also internationally. Andrew discussed the need for WHA to embrace change, focus on the needs of the public and non-government organisations, support the formation of the Australian Wildlife Health Institute and to be brave and to take more risks. Both thanked the staff for their outstanding commitment to supporting the MC's efforts to improve Australia's wildlife health arrangements.

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