

MEETING SUMMARY: 24th March 2020

The Twentieth meeting (MC20) of WHA's Committee of Management took place on 24th March, 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 elected Organisational Members: Three organisations elected by the Organisational Members:
 - Anna Meredith, Wildlife Health Victoria
 - Andrew Peters, Wildlife Disease Association Australasia
 - Robert Johnson, Australian Veterinary Conservation Biology, (Apology) and;
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency.

MC20 was a routine quarterly meeting of the MC and included Rupert Woods (Chief Executive Officer - CEO) and Karen Magee (Administration Manager and Public Officer – PO/Minutes). The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the release of a draft list of endemic wildlife health diseases and issues of concern and, following the bushfire emergency, consider the role the national system could play in assisting with preparedness activities in future emergencies. It was agreed that the draft list be taken to the various national wildlife focus groups for consideration prior to release and that a small task group be formed to assist in better identifying the national need subsequent to the bushfires. The composition of the Research Advisory sub-committee of the MC (the RAC) was discussed and its membership expanded. As well as providing advice to the CEO and MC, the RAC has the potential to work with the Universities Focus Group in continuing to improve the framework for wildlife research information sharing and coordination for the country. A continuing area of focus is improving diversity within the MC, and in particular identifying candidates that could potentially fill the final discretionary position on the MC by bringing an Indigenous perspective. The MC is also considering transition of the national system to a skills-based board and company limited by guarantee: something that could also assist with increasing diversity on the committee of management.

With the current emergency situation relating to COVID-19, a number of outreach projects have been delayed or have been moved to online platforms where possible. There was discussion and some concern regarding the potential impact of COVID-19 on surveillance partners, members, and employees. A business continuity plan has been enacted, and the MC continues to closely monitor the situation. The planned strategic review has been parked as the MC focusses on the national system's potential contribution to bushfire and wildlife disaster preparedness.

The next meeting of the MC is scheduled for Wednesday 17th June, 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).