

Wildlife Health Australia welcomes new Chair

Wildlife Health Australia warmly welcomes the announcement of Professor Peter Bridgewater as its new Chair.

Wildlife Health Australia CEO Rupert Woods said: “Professor Bridgewater brings significant experience through a distinguished career in environmental management which will be of immense value in guiding Wildlife Health Australia in coming years.

“Along with my Executive colleagues and staff at Wildlife Health Australia, I look forward to working with Professor Bridgewater and our Board on realising our strategic objectives to lead national action on wildlife health, and to protect and enhance the natural environment, biodiversity, economy and animal and human health.

“Professor Bridgewater’s impressive CV includes appointments as Chief Executive of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Secretary for UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme, Chief Scientist for the UK’s Nature Conservation Council and visiting professor at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies in Japan.”

Dr Woods expressed his deep appreciation for the contributions of the outgoing Chair, Dr Sarah Britton.

“Since her appointment as the Acting Chair in 2021, Dr Sarah Britton has drawn upon her extensive experience to provide visionary leadership and guidance for Wildlife Health Australia during a time of significant change for the organisation.

“Fortunately for our organisation, Sarah is also the representative of Australia’s Animal Health Committee, and will be resuming her position on our Board as we transition to the new leadership. We welcome her ongoing insights and counsel,” Dr Woods said.

Dr Woods also recognised the on-going support and guidance of past and new Wildlife Health Australia board members including representatives of Australia’s Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer, Australian and state and territory Chief Veterinary Officers, including Australia’s Chief Veterinary Officer, and the Director of Australia’s Centre for Disease Prevention.

Professor Peter Bridgewater commences his role as the Chair of Wildlife Health Australia this month.