

## MEETING SUMMARY: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The forty-first meeting (BM41) of WHA's Board took place virtually on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Members of the Board are:

- Richard Russel, Chairperson
- Cameron Bell, Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Sharon Kolek, Funding Member, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (apology)
- Michelle Campbell-Ward, Individual Member Representative elected by the Individual Members
- Andrew Pearce, nominee of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DCCEEW)
- 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
  - o Nicola Craddock, Zoo and Aquarium Association

This was the fourth meeting of the year and the first meeting under the leadership of the new Chair, Richard Russell. As well as routine business, notable items the board discussed included the Vision 2050 strategic planning project, financial statements and audit report for FY24, proposed Constitution changes and Board appointed positions.

The Vision 2050 project is in phase two and the board-led Strategic Working Group are planning for stakeholder consultation and engagement into WHA's future desired state and strategic framework. This developing framework is to succeed the current strategic plan, WildPLAN, which is set to end in June 2025. Before the end of 2024, members and stakeholders will be approached by WHA's Board and staff to provide opportunity for feedback into the future strategic framework for the organisation.

The Board received the audited financial statements and audit management letter for FY24 and there were no concerns raised by the auditor or the Board regarding the financial position of WHA. The Board remain conscious that WHA's funding arrangements are currently unknown from July 2025 and securing ongoing funding remains a strategic priority for the Board.

The Board directed the Company Secretary to call the annual general meeting (AGM) for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The AGM will include presentation of the audited financials for FY24 to members, member elections and special resolutions for proposed Constitution changes. There are two significant proposed Constitution changes. One is to update clauses and definitions relevant to WHA's DGR status, as the regulatory body responsible for DGR status has transitioned from the Register of Environmental Organisations (as part of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) to the ATO, and as such, the legal requirements and reporting have simplified. The second is to update a replaceable rule on circular resolutions to be more functional and is consistent with best practice for not-for-profit organisations. All proposed changes to the Constitution have been drafted with legal advice and more information will be provided to members prior to the AGM.

The Board also discussed the four Board appointed positions, noting one is filled by Chair, Richard Russell. The Board are considering which sectors, organisations and individuals to engage to leverage the strategic benefits that come with filling those Board appointed positions. Nominees endorsed by the Board will be brought to members at the AGM for their consideration and endorsement.

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).