

The fortieth meeting (BM40) of WHA's Board took place virtually on 19th June 2024.

Members of the Board are:

- Cameron Bell (Acting Chair), Funding Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Sharon Kolek, Funding Member, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 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
- Rodney Vile, Invited Member, Environment Agency

This was the third meeting of the year and the first meeting for the new WHA board under the new legal structure of WHA as a public company limited by guarantee. As well as routine business, the board:

- Met, discussed and resolved to offer the open position of chair of WHA to the preferred candidate as identified through recruitment and the recommendation of the WHA Nominations Committee
- Were updated and approved a process for the next phase of strategic planning for the organisation, and;
- Discussed and approved the WHA budget for FY25.

The Vision 2050 project is going very well with Phase 1 now completed. This involved two, internal workshops with staff and board back casting, scanning and use of the three horizons-type approach to generate ideas and themes relevant to the future of WHA and its services to the nation. A meet and greet introduced our potential new chair who sat in to consider planning activities and meet other board members. We hope to make an announcement to Members in the coming weeks. The budget for FY25 was tabled and will be very tight with a small surplus predicted. Under the guidance of members of the WHA Audit and Risk Committee, several structural changes have been made to improve visibility for the board. Other items included tidying up a few last tasks in the transition of WHA Inc. to a public company limited by guarantee (CLG), which is now all but complete. This has been a long journey for WHA and the vision of several previous boards and leaders of the organisation and very capably implemented by business manager, Karen Magee. Also of significance was the final meeting for long serving Director Rodney Vile. Rodney was our first recruited environment agency rep to the board. He has been a champion for the activities of WHA in the environment space, but also in one of his many areas of expertise, wildlife emergency management: something that has been of real use in guiding the organisation and its approach to emergencies and preparedness post 2019/20 bushfires and the increasing recognition of the importance of this gap area in Australia's emergency management arrangements. Thank you, Rodney.

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. The Board will continue to provide updates to Members via the regular newsletters, reports and these Board summaries, as the many activities planned for this year move ahead.

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