

Forestry Australia
WA Branch Annual General Meeting
20 December 2021
On-line meeting

Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm

Present:

Brad Barr (Chair)
Lachie McCaw
Peter Beatty
John Clarke
Bob Hingston
John McGrath
Mike Rautenbach
David Wettenhall
David Humphreys

Apologies:

Danielle Wiseman, Cam Schuster.

Chairman: B Barr welcomed the members who were on line – noting that during 2021, the former Institute of Foresters of Australia had finally been converted to Forestry Australia (FA), incorporating IFA and Australian Forest Growers into one national entity.

He also noted that the revamped website for FA had just been launched.

Feedback indicated that with testing still in progress, some aspects of the new interface may take up to 24 hours or more to bring across all member and committee details.

WA Division Committee members had observed that the committee listing of names had remained a couple of years out of date.

Previous Minutes _AGM November 2020

Chair invited Secretary to summarize : Accepted as true and correct record : (L McCaw , J Clarke)

President Report

Brad indicated that he didn't have a specific written Chair's report to table at this AGM, but intended to update previous summary information that had been presented elsewhere covering most of the previous year. He thanked and acknowledged the diverse matters addressed by committee and some other members over the past year.

From National Office perspective, Brad and Lachie McCaw (Board Director) reported that FA's executive support through Professionals Australia was now transitioned back to its own working office (Melbourne). In addition to Jacquie, and part time staffers Andrea and Naomi, Sue had been recruited in a support administration role.

Noted also that Stephen Walker, long standing QLD member, was engaged to address RFP processes. Mentioned FA planned 2-3 day forum/symposium (theme Emissions Reduction Fund and Murray River issues) in October in Albury, NSW.

Other Matters

David W raised question of whether the next alternating ANZIF Conference was a possibility whether we could consider proposing an Albany based event. Supportive remarks made by J McGrath (hybrid event can work with travel uncertainties) and Brad with fire management theme as one of many options. Lachie noted he could raise ANZIF question at next Board meeting.

Election of office bearers for 2020/21:

Chair : **Brad Barr**, having completed his 1st full year as Chairman, was nominated by J McGrath, Seconded L McCaw & R Hingston. Supported unanimously - accepted

Secretary: **Peter Beatty** was nominated to continue in the role by J Clarke, seconded by R Hingston

Committee members appointed for 2022/23 : John Clarke, Bob Hingston, David Humphreys, Lachie McCaw, John McGrath, Mike Rautenbach, David Wettenhall, Danielle Wiseman

It was suggested that an approach be made to at least one other prospective member - a practicing forester (for example – one who works within FPC or DBCA, or in South Coast plantation forestry, or linked to Carbon Offset forestry - in an attempt to diversify committee make up.

Other business:

Attracting new members to FA from related fields such as Greening Aust, Carbon offset forestry, Land management or industry was discussed. Further action by approach is warranted

Preliminary briefings about Forest Management Plan 2024: Noted that Chair (Brad) may attend FIFWA's early meeting with DBCA / Conservation & Parks Commission.

Members highlighted other issues that should be developed as foresters input to FMP consultation : eg, Bauxite expansion plans and forest values loss, fire management, extent and nature of ecological thinning in jarrah, resource yields, feral pests in plantation estate - government agencies.

The Chair suggested it would be timely early in 2022 to write a feature Opinion piece or article on foresters perspectives on critical forest issues for WA, pitching positive directions and possibilities. An example is ambition for expanded plantation estates, best integrated into landscapes.

Lachie added voice to the relevance of Montreal Criteria for SFM, and these being articulated.

David W and Bob H commentated on extension of boundaries for the FMP, taking account of State supported new plantings and private bushland with values consistent with the FMP, bearing in mind over-constraining impact of the Clearing Approval process

David W again raised the question of not having a comprehensive forest strategy set out for the State – that FMP and Djarlma Plan are not sufficient to that end.

On the issue of whether WA Division of FA should take in regard to Alcoa plans for expansion of mining footprint, there was general consensus that we should fundamentally oppose extension of approved mining in public forest of the SW.

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm

Secretary: P Beatty

Chair : Brad Barr