



17 March 2021

**To Oysters Australia Stakeholders**

Oysters Tasmania Oysters Australia NSW Farmers Queensland Oyster Growers Association	Australian Seafood Industries Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
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**Chairman's Report to Stakeholders**

**11 March Board Meeting**

The following notes from the meeting are provided to stakeholders for general information. They are not a replacement for the formal Board minutes.

*Research, Development & Extension*

The primary agenda item for the meeting was consideration of the RD&E applications received, following a national call for expressions of interest. A total of 21 applications were received. Each application was scored by the board using Attractiveness and Feasibility metrics. We are now in the process of providing feedback to applicants and will need to complete that before we can make details public. However, the following is a summary:

- One application, to support Safefish, was fully approved.
- Three applications were not approved because they were not appropriate for OA.
- The remaining 17 applications are being considered, and as part of the process it is likely that we will involve some technical reviewers.
- There were some common themes in the applications:
  - Sensors, networks and digital recording systems
  - Natural Capital Accounting, blue carbon trading platforms
  - Breeding programs & genetics
  - Disease prevention and biosecurity

*Finances*

The bank balance on 28 November was \$47,845, about half of which is committed. Final payments have been received from FRDC for completion of Strategic Plan and Covid response projects conducted by OA.

The Industry Partnership Agreement with FRDC, which provides us with financial security for the next four years, has not yet been completed. We hope to have it from FRDC in the coming weeks.

***Representing Australia's oyster producers  
Oysters Australia Ltd ABN 63 153 542 833***

### *National Aquaculture Council (NAC)*

At a Special General Meeting on 24 February, the financial members of NAC resolved to dissolve the company. The funds remaining in the company are to be held in trust while discussions occur with SIA about the possibility of them conducting some of the advocacy activities that were performed by NAC.

### *Commonwealth Aquaplan 2021-2025*

The final version of the plan will be available in coming weeks. The plan sets goals for the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to achieve in the areas of aquatic animal health and biosecurity. Some examples are:

- Working with industry to implement on-farm biosecurity plans
- Disease surveillance at a national and farm level.

There is no funding attached to the document but it will be an important policy document to guide future investment.

### *The SIA National Seafood Marketing Campaign*

It is anticipated that we will soon receive some data on the impact of the campaign.

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As NSW were awarded a \$30,000 State Government Grant to progress marketing, a national campaign building on the SIA marketing was proposed with in-principle support sought for a similar contribution from other states. At this stage and running a deficit budget, Oysters Tasmania is not in a position to participate and is focussed on building on an existing Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council campaign. As the SA Oyster Growers Association have provided in-principle support for a \$30,000 contribution, there is continuing discussion on how a national campaign may evolve.

### *Aquatic Animal Emergency Disease Agreement (aEADRA)*

Following the briefing session held on 1 December, we are waiting for advice from the Commonwealth on costs to industry. If the decision is favourable, we will recommence discussions with industry.

### *National Oyster Market Report:*

The market report is well supported in SA and NSW but contributions from Tasmania have dropped off since the program changed from a Tasmania-only initiative to a tri-state activity. OA and OT will continue to work on it.

### *Further Information*

I am happy to talk more about any of the above subjects. Alternatively, please feel free to contact Andy Myers or your state representative on Oysters Australia (see below).

I encourage you to share this report as widely as you see fit.

Kind Regards,

Len Stephens  
Chairman  
0418 454 726

**Oysters Australia Board Members**

*New South Wales*

Todd Graham, Tony Troup

*South Australia*

Gary Zippel, Steve Bowley

*Tasmania*

Ian Duthie, Tim Pauly

*Executive Officer*

Andy Myers