



24 November 2020

To Oysters Australia Stakeholders

Oysters Tasmania Oysters Australia NSW Farmers Queensland Oyster Growers Association	Australian Seafood Industries Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
---	---

Chairman's Report to Stakeholders

November Board Meeting and AGM

The Annual General Meeting and the Board meeting were both held on 18 November.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was brief, with the main agenda item being appointment of Directors. Caroline Henry, representing NSW, resigned from the Board after many years of service and was replaced by Todd Graham. Ian Duthie and Gary Zippel were both re-elected for two years.

I would like to thank Caroline for her hefty contribution to OA and the oyster industry over many years.

The Executive Officer and I gave brief reports to the meeting and the financial report was duly noted.

Board Meeting

Strategic Plan

This was the main item on the agenda. I am pleased to say that we now have a final draft that will soon be circulated to stakeholders for one last opportunity for comment. It has been more difficult than usual to complete the task under Covid lock down conditions and we hope to be able to revisit the plan within the coming year, when face to face meetings are possible.

With the Strategic Plan in place we will once again be able to call for R&D project proposals. It is more than a year since this has been done, and as a result there is a healthy balance in the FRDC Oyster R&D fund.

Finances

The bank balance on 30 September was \$43,000, about half of which is committed.

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

Financial security for the next four years depends on the establishment of an Industry Partnership Agreement with FRDC. It is necessary for OA to have a strategic plan in place prior to signing an IPA, so with completion of the plan we can now proceed to securing our future. The IPA primarily provides funds for OA to manage a portfolio of R&D projects and contributes to some of the administrative costs.

The SIA National Seafood Marketing Campaign

The campaign is now live, with print and television advertisements in all States. Our executive officer, Andy Myers is our main contact point and he has begun consulting State associations to find the best way for oysters to benefit from the campaign. For example, NSW has received some funding for local marketing initiatives to be conducted in conjunction with the national campaign.

Aquatic Animal Emergency Disease Agreement (aEADRA)

This long running issue went into hibernation for a year but has been reactivated by the Commonwealth Government. Some OA directors will attend a briefing session on 1 December.

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.

Please note that this report does not replace the formal minutes of the Board meeting.

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