

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Irrigation Australia Limited, held nationally by Zoom on Wednesday 27 October 2022 at 12.00 AEST.

---

**PRESENT:**

**Directors:** Andrew Ogden (Chair); Simon Treptow (Deputy Chair); Peter Brueck; Peter Durand; John Pivac; Momir Vranes; Carl Walters; Colin Bendall; Rob Nadebaum & Greig Graham.

**Life Member:** Sid Dyer

**Members:** Matthew Binder; Shane Chisholm (Philmac); Arran Corbett; Clive Croxford; Mark Davies (Aquamonix); Steven Ford (Pioneer Valley Water); Cedric Geffen (WiseConn Engineering); Peter McCartney (Rich River Irrigation Developments Pty Ltd); Richard McLoughlin; Andrew Ogden (Western Irrigation Pty Ltd and Twist Engineering); Eddie Parr; Brett Peel; Matthew Plunkett (Local Land Services); Daniel Rose (Pinion Advisory – Perth); Michael Scobie (Centre for Agricultural Engineering); Peter Smith; Valentina Tripp (Davey Water Products); Darryl Wylie (HR Products).

**Proxies:** Christopher Taylor (Famuba Consulting Pty Ltd); James Ross (Jedross Pty Ltd); Kathryn Eden (Greene Eden); Mike Thompson (Clayton Engineering) and Clinton Hort (Rodney Industries).

All five proxies were directed to the Chair.

**In attendance:**

IAL staff: Dave Cameron (Chief Executive Officer); Chris Delphin (Company Secretary); Tracy Martin (National Membership & Regions Manager) Geoff Harvey (National Training, Certification & Marketing Manager) Bec New (WA Projects Officer); Martine Haarhoff (IAL Business Administration Assistant) and Bryan Ward.

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Kathryn Eden (Life Member); Famuba Consulting Pty Ltd; Jedross Pty Ltd; Clayton Engineering & Rodney Industries.

**Opening**

The Chair, Andrew Ogden advised that a quorum had been achieved and declared the meeting open at 12.04 pm AEST and welcomed members and guests. He provided a general overview of the format of proceedings for the meeting. He advised Members that the meeting will be recorded.

The Chair welcomed Life Member Sid Dyer. He acknowledged the recent passing of Life Member Simon-Cowland Cooper AOM, and remarked on his enormous contribution to the irrigation industry. He also specially acknowledged another industry stalwart in John Pryor, a long-standing member and Certified Irrigation Designer of Irrigation Australia and a golf industry veteran.

The Notice of Meeting and Explanatory Note were taken as read.

The Company Secretary explained the voting procedure for the appointment of auditor and the process for questions.

**Minutes of the previous annual general meeting**

It was noted that the minutes of the Irrigation Australia Limited Annual General Meeting of members held Thursday 27 October 2021 had been signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of that meeting at the board meeting held on 10 December 2021 further noting that the minutes had also been circulated with the Notice of Meeting distributed to members within the required time period, and also made available on the event website.

## Chair's address

The Chair spoke to his presentation and acknowledged the following key items:

- The impact of COVID19 and the strong support of industry in ensuring business continuity and enabling us to continue to provide value and service to members; to be the first point of contact and prime source of knowledge for industry stakeholders and to provide professional development for our industry.
- The delivery of 42 training courses in the past year - a fantastic level of engagement.
- The successful delivery of the long-awaited biennial conference and exhibition, combined with the ICID 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress in Adelaide - the largest irrigation event ever held in the southern hemisphere.
- Special recognition of Irrigation Australia's team for the immense work undertaken to deliver such an event including the IACID Committee and all the Abstract and Paper Reviewers, General Reporters and Panel Experts.
- Strong regional activities, especially in Western Australia which delivered a regional expo in August 2021 attracting a record number of participants.
- The support and growth of regional activity in Victoria and South Australia as local circumstances enable this to occur.
- The volunteers who support our organisation and fill a range of roles in our industry from the national Board of directors to members of subcommittees working at Board level (IACID, Rainwater Harvesting, Certification Board Committee) and the members of our regional committees and subcommittees.
- The evolving of Irrigation Australia over the past 6 years under Bryan Ward's guardianship as CEO with his outstanding efforts commended over the course of his engagement which saw the organisation flourish.
- The appointment of new CEO Dave Cameron who brings a host of new skills, knowledge and experience to lead the organisation into the future.
- The Company Secretary and Business Administration Manager, Chris Delphin who is also moving on and who has ensured that the organisation's activities have been undertaken with the appropriate governance and compliance and also provided strong support to Bryan and in the organisation of the conference and exhibition.
- The unprecedented number of nominations received, reflecting strong interest in Board positions and a willingness from members to contribute to the ongoing governance and oversight of our industry organisation.
- The Board's expectation that Irrigation Australia will continue its efforts to provide real value and service to members, to continue to raise the profile of the industry and to enhance the continued professional growth of the industry by supporting training, liaising on behalf of industry with all levels of government, and growing the role of regional branches of Irrigation Australia in local communities.

The Chair invited the CEO, Dave Cameron to make his presentation. The following key points were made:

- Recognition that the business delivered a strong financial result following a period of many challenges and achieving any sort of surplus with the loss of Job Keeper and the distractions of trying to deliver a major international event through this period, has been a significant achievement.
- The audit review and audit and risk committee meetings are a credit to the organisation and its key staff, in their robustness of financial management.
- The commitment by staff and training contractors to the success of the association and its role in supporting the broader industry is commendable.
- The successful delivery of the Congress and Conference & Exhibition was an amazing effort.
- The support provided by the Chair and Board of Directors is impressive recognising they are all volunteers and willingly give their time to support the irrigation industry and is of enormous value to the organisation.

- The work done by the various sub-committees in particular the IACID Committee leading up to the International ICID Congress and Conference, the Rainwater Harvesting Committee and the Certification Board Committee all consume hours of volunteer work each month, and their passion for their area of interest is noteworthy.
- The regional committees who all share a common desire for a better irrigation industry.
- Acknowledgment of the retiring committee members including the Melbourne Committee's Des Horton, Jim Marchbank & Gary Andrews; the Western Australia Committee's Clinton Hort, Darryl Wylie and Tim Robertson and South Australia's Kath Eden.
- The Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation for our Waterwise program which extends well beyond the financial support and they are actively engaged with Irrigation Australia on all aspects of the Waterwise Program and the efficient use of water in Western Australia.
- The Centre of Irrigation Excellence Sponsors for their continued support.

Dave said it is early days and he is working through his strategic approach which will be significantly informed by a Board strategy day later this year. His first impressions include:

- A need to recognise existing strengths and build on ideas already developed;
- A need to focus on membership and what that means to attract a more diverse membership base as well as provide a clear value proposition for existing members;
- A need to continue to grow marketing and uptake of our Waterwise and Certification Programs and also opportunities for existing Certified Irrigation Professionals, reinforcing the importance of suitably qualified people driving quality systems and sustainable approaches;
- A need to focus on quality – ensuring the services we deliver including training, are providing the best experiences for learners and job-ready skills and also to finalise the implementation of our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to support all of these needs. The next stages will focus on getting the best out of the investment and ensuring information is presented efficiently and appropriately updated;
- A need to build partnerships and collaborations and a focus on positively influencing key industry and government stakeholders.

Members were invited to ask questions regarding the Chair and CEO presentations and there were no questions raised.

### **ITEM 1: Financial Report, Directors' Report and Independent Auditor's Report**

The Chair formally tabled Irrigation Australia's Financial Report, which included the Financial Statements, Directors Report, Directors' Declaration and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2022. He invited the CEO to deliver the financial report to members.

The CEO provided a brief summary of the report.

There were no questions raised on the financial report and the Chair declared the Financial Statements, Directors' Report and Declaration and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 duly received and considered.

### **ITEM 2: Election of Directors**

The Chair confirmed that, as the number of candidates in the election of directors was more than the number of positions to be filled, a formal ballot was conducted in accordance with the constitution. He asked the Company Secretary to inform the meeting of the result of the ballot.

The Company Secretary announced that all renominating directors: Carl Walters, Colin Bendall, Rob Nadebaum and Greig Graham were duly elected.

He noted that John Pivac and Peter Durand had elected not to renominate for a further term and thanked them for their long service on the board and its committees.

The Chair congratulated the returning Directors. He welcomed incoming directors Valentina Tripp, CEO Davey Water Products and Matthew Binder, MJ Binder Consulting Pty Ltd.

He thanked the other seventeen nominees for putting their hands up and encouraged them to stand again in the future.

### **ITEM 3: Ordinary Resolution - Appointment of Auditors**

The company refers the appointment of the company's auditor to members for special resolution.

The CEO advised members that there were no material items mentioned in the audit report and the Auditor considered the process of high standard.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the resolution and there were none.

It was noted that the Board has accepted a recommendation from the Audit & Risk Management Committee that FSA Partners be appointed as the company's auditor for 2022/23.

The Chair moved that FSA Partners be appointed as the company's auditors for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Company Secretary called for members to vote and the motion was **carried unanimously**.

### **ITEM 4: QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited all those present to raise any matters of relevance that have not been dealt with on the agenda.

- Member Arran Corbett offered his thanks for organising the non-urban water metering workshop in Adelaide and asked that, given the importance of the challenge facing the industry to meet new regulations, what strategy the board was proposing to continue assisting members and offering guidance to government – further what specific actions were being considered regarding informing government policy?
- In response Andrew said the question is very relevant and we need to respond in a way that is both professionally undertaken and within the resources of the organisation. He said that Irrigation Australia works on behalf of its members wherever it can and the Board will certainly look at Arran's question in more detail. He added that Irrigation Australia tries to involve itself, not only when new regulations come out but also in discussion before they are established. He said that one of the goals of Irrigation Australia is to be included at the table in these discussions to present our members viewpoints and contribute in a positive way to the regulations, rather than try and change them after they are in place.
- Life Member, Sid Dyer offered his congratulations on what the association has done since 1977 when it was just an idea to 1982 its inauguration as IAA in Dubbo and to now when over the last few years Irrigation Australia and its team have achieved a lot of the things that those involved in the very early days aimed for.
- Andrew commented that despite the sound financial report presented by Dave, the way the organisation operates is heavily reliant on volunteer input and it is a critical way our organisation functions and without that we would not receive the information that comes forward and could not have the regional activity we have. Volunteering, regardless of the financial standing of the organisation, will be equally as important in the future as it has been in the past.
- Member Arran Corbett asked if Irrigation Australia had a specifically appointed spokesperson in the organisation?
- Andrew responded that a few years ago the Board agreed that the CEO needed to be the face of the organisation for public comment to avoid a situation in which there could be a perception of bias or conflict of interest arising from the particular business that person operates.
- Dave Cameron responded that Arran had identified a key point he wished to present to the Board for its strategy discussions given his strong background in advocacy.
- Matthew Plunkett asked for further elaboration on the member value proposition and what is missing and how planning and marketing will assist with this pending issue?
- Andrew advised that members have provided commentary from a range of different perspectives to Dave recently at the conference and elsewhere where he has interacted with members. He said that it is a perennial question that has been ongoing for 8 years and has been tackled by a number of committees. He said feedback is greatly welcomed by directors and management on what members actually want from the organisation.
- Bryan Ward added that we have tried a number of iterations to find member benefits that strike a chord with members on several occasions over the years and these did not receive the support we expected

they might. He said it is an on-going process to find the right package of benefits that resonate with members and remains a challenge for this Board and future Boards to get this right. In conclusion he said that the implementation of the new customer records management system will remove one of the constraints which was our previous inability to be pliable enough to offer alternative arrangements which will be effective in the future.

- Member Richard McLoughlin offered his thanks and congratulations to Bryan and his team for their work over the past 5 years. He offered his services to the new CEO and Board especially in relation to the National Water Initiative review which he has previously held responsibility for in Canberra.
- Bryan reflected on his time with the association and how his initial view of the organisation had changed over the years. He said that he has enjoyed great support from the Irrigation Australia team and the members over the last 7 years, and he has come to the conclusion that members have been reasonably satisfied with the process along the way with little complaint. He thanked members and wished the new board and CEO the very best for the future and advised he would remain a member of Irrigation Australia and stay connected.
- Member Peter Smith sought confirmation that suggestions would be welcome which was affirmed by both the CEO and Chair.
- Life Member Sid Dyer posed a question on how well, as Australians, do we manage our water resource? Because on the whole, the gross efficiency of what we are using and where we source it from is coming greatly into question now. At the moment we have an abundance, but we waste such a lot and as times goes on we will discover the only real asset we have that earns any money will be water.
- Andrew responded that we manage our water resource in a host of different ways ranging from atrociously, to in accordance with the best standards in the world. He said that Australia is a diverse nation with diverse operators and our goal, at Irrigation Australia is to ensure members of our industry organisation are resourced to manage their water in the best possible way – we cannot force them, but we can encourage and train and think we are doing pretty well.
- Andrew added that this question reinforces that water is Australia's most important asset, apart from its people and it underpins everything we do and means that Irrigation Australia will have an even more important role in the future.

There were no further questions and the Chair said question time was a good opportunity for discussion and thanked everyone for making time available and for their continuing interest, cooperation and support in our association.

## **CLOSE**

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting closed at 12.51 pm AEST.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

---

Andrew Ogden  
Chair  
Date: 8 December 2022