Draft Minutes

Present:

Directors: Simon Treptow (Chair), Greig Graham, Rob Nadebaum, Clinton Hort, Gennaro Vellotti, Matthew Binder and Bryce Neyland.
Apology: Valentina Tripp, Carl Walters.
Life Members: Kathryn Eden and Andrew Ogden.
Members and guests: Chris Rehm, Grant Chettleburgh, Peter Hayes, David Ahlquist, Andrew Garlick, Brent Hill, Karl Clively, Peter Smith, Babak Yousefian, Carolyn Wood, Dan Rezaeinik (Nik), Judy Parkes, Gurpreet Singh, Raj Mahendrarajah, Chris Joseph, Peter Durand, Stuart Alexander
Proxies: Valentina Tripp; Paul McGavin on behalf of CQ Pumps & Irrigation Services.
Irrigation Australia staff: Marike Froneman, Aoife Furlong, Liandi Schoonhoven, Jasmine Le Lievre-Adams

Item 1 - Declaration of Quorum and Opening of Meeting

The Chair, Mr Simon Treptow, welcomed Members and guests to the 2026 Annual General Meeting and advised that the meeting would be recorded for documentation purposes.
The Company Secretary, Mrs Marike Froneman, confirmed that two proxies had been received in favour of the Chair and that the quorum requirements under Part C, Clause 20 of the Constitution had been met. The Chair declared the meeting open.
The Notice of Meeting was taken as read. The Company Secretary outlined the voting procedure for the auditor resolution and the process for Members to ask questions or make comments during the meeting.

Item 2 - Previous Annual General Meeting Minutes

It was noted that the minutes of the Irrigation Australia Limited Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 29 October 2025 had been circulated to Members with the Notice of Meeting and made available in the Members area of the website.
The Chair noted that those minutes had previously been confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings at the Board meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2026.

Item 3 - Irrigation Australia Board - Chair's Address, Mr Simon Treptow

Mr Simon Treptow (Chair) presented his report, covering the following key points:

- Strategic focus and relevance
  - The past year had required the Board to make important decisions about the future of the Association and the priorities it can sustainably support.
  - Irrigation Australia continues to have an important purpose in supporting skilled irrigation professionals, sound water management practices and a credible national industry voice.
  - The Association must continue to earn the confidence of Members, industry partners and stakeholders by demonstrating relevance, effectiveness and financial responsibility.
- Operating model and priorities
  - Success should not be measured by the number of programs or initiatives undertaken, but by the value delivered to industry and the ability to sustain that contribution over time.
  - The Association will need to concentrate effort where it has genuine expertise, demonstrable industry demand and the capacity to make a meaningful difference.
  - Some worthwhile activities may be better delivered through partnerships or by other organisations, and the Board remains open to different ways of working and sharing capability.
- Future direction
  - The objective is not simply to restore the Association to its previous form, but to

establish a more focused, capable and valuable organisation that remains relevant to the next generation of irrigation professionals and businesses.
    - The Chair acknowledged the contribution of Acting General Manager Peter Durand, the head office team, fellow Directors, Members, sponsors and industry partners, and thanked former General Manager Naomi Carragher for her contribution to the Association.

Item 4 - Acting General Manager Address, Mr Peter Durand

Mr Peter Durand presented his Acting General Manager report and provided a direct assessment of the Association's current position.

- Financial and operating position
    - Meaningful progress has been made since March 2026, but the turnaround is not complete. Costs and cash are under closer control and the Board has improved visibility of key risks.
    - Much of the improvement has come from reducing expenditure and activity rather than rebuilding revenue. Cash remains tight, the balance sheet remains weak and capacity for unfunded or low-value activity is limited.
- Legacy student obligations
    - A key operational priority remains the management of students enrolled under the previous training system, including records, assessments, supporting documentation and completion requirements across multiple systems.
    - IAL is using a structured approach, including external assessment support where appropriate, while tightening controls around new delivery.
- Training, certification and capability
    - Accredited training will continue where demand, commercial viability, trainer capacity and compliance support are clear.
    - Certification, continuing professional development and practical industry-led short courses are being strengthened as part of a more selective capability model.
    - A full Western Australian Certificate III intake and strong interest in practical training demonstrate continuing demand, subject to sustainable delivery.
- Membership and Western Australia
    - Some Members have chosen not to renew following fee changes. Management acknowledged that feedback and the need for IAL to be clearer about practical Member value.
    - Western Australia remains a priority through Waterwise, the apprenticeship pathway, the WA Regional Committee and relationships with Water Corporation and DWER, supported by stronger reporting, governance and follow-through.
- Near-term direction
    - The stated approach for the next six to twelve months is to stabilise before scaling: finish legacy work, protect cash, run viable training, improve Member value and be disciplined about new commitments.
    - Mr Durand thanked staff, contractors, the Board, sponsors and Members who had provided direct and constructive feedback.

Item 5 - Initial Member Comments

The Chair invited comments and questions on the Chair and Acting General Manager reports.

- Mr Andrew Ogden, a former Chair and Life Member, commended the team and Board for confronting the Association's challenges directly and for the candid assessment provided to Members.

No other comments were raised at that point and the meeting proceeded to the financial reports.

Item 6 - Financial Report, Directors' Report and Independent Auditor's

Report

The Chair noted that the audited Financial Report, Directors' Report and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 had been made available to Members for the required period. The reports were presented for noting and no resolution was required.

The Acting General Manager presented the financial report, highlighting:

- The audited accounts recorded a deficit of $11,323 for 2025–26, compared with a deficit of $274,903 in the prior year.
- The improvement was driven principally by a lower cost base and tighter expenditure control rather than restoration of the Association's revenue base.
- Cash and short-term deposits at 30 June 2026 were $104,582, approximately $75,800 lower than at the start of the year.
- The Association finished the year with negative net assets of $45,977. A significant component of current liabilities represented income received in advance for future membership and training delivery; however, liquidity and working capital remained tight.
- The Board adopted a deliberately smaller FY2026–27 budget, with lower assumed training volume, a stronger contribution from membership and a budgeted surplus of approximately $75,700.
- Financial priorities are reliable cash forecasting, prompt debtor collection, clearer understanding of course contribution, protection of membership revenue and avoidance of commitments without clear funding, margin and accountability.

The Acting General Manager summarised the position as a controlled recovery rather than a completed turnaround.

Item 7 - Member Questions and Discussion

The Chair invited Members to ask questions and comment on the reports and the Association's future direction. The main topics discussed were:

- Certification recognition and end-user awareness
  - Mr Dan Nik raised concern about irrigation designs being prepared by non-certified practitioners and asked whether IAL could increase recognition of certification in tender requirements, particularly among councils and government agencies.
  - Mr Durand said IAL would continue to run and promote certification programs, but that stronger demand for certification required an industry-wide approach rather than IAL acting alone.
  - Mr Peter Smith supported greater promotion of certification to end users outside IAL's existing channels. Mr Andrew Ogden noted that certified individuals and businesses also have a role in actively promoting certification as a point of distinction in their own submissions and marketing.
  - The Chair acknowledged both perspectives and noted that broader promotion is desirable, but current resources remain heavily committed to legacy accredited-training obligations.
- Western Australian irrigation trade and apprenticeship pathway
  - Mr Andrew Ogden asked what action was being taken following formal recognition of the irrigation trade and the apprenticeship pathway in Western Australia.
  - Management advised that IAL is working with the WA Regional Committee and the Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council using a partnership approach, while responding to demonstrated demand for training.
  - Recent WA training had filled to capacity and there was sufficient expression of interest to support further delivery, subject to financial viability and delivery capacity. Mrs Froneman noted that IAL was still awaiting the relevant Department's finalised plan for trades and apprenticeships for the following year.
- FY2026–27 budget risk and membership exposure
  - Mr Chris Rehm asked whether the budget had allowed for global and domestic economic risks, including input-cost pressures, inflation and the potential for

membership reductions.
    - Mr Durand advised that those external factors were not individually modelled, but the budget used conservative membership assumptions and recognised the risk of further non-renewals.
    - The Chair observed that Members increasingly expect tangible value from Association membership and that this reinforces the need to concentrate resources on programs that deliver clear Member benefit.
- Regional and agricultural engagement
    - Mr Brent Hill asked how IAL planned to reconnect with regional Australia and agriculture after a period of limited visible progress.
    - Mr Durand outlined several initiatives: bringing agricultural and metropolitan dealers together as a working group; expanding practical, non-accredited, industry-led skills training in regional areas; reinvigorating regional committees using Western Australia as a working example; and partnering with established agricultural and sector events rather than running a standalone national IAL event in the short term.
    - Mr Hill welcomed the direction and emphasised the availability of Members willing to assist with regional engagement.
- Experienced practitioner pathways
    - A comment from Mr David Ahlquist highlighted the need for a pathway for experienced practitioners to obtain trade recognition or certification and to support apprenticeships.
    - The Chair agreed that this was consistent with the broader partnership, skills-based training and certification discussions already underway.

Item 8 - Election of Directors

The Chair noted that, under Rule 29 of the Constitution, Valentina Tripp, Carl Walters, Greig Graham, Matthew Binder and Rob Nadebaum were required to retire by rotation. Eight eligible nominations were received for five vacant positions and a ballot was conducted in accordance with Rule 29 of the Constitution.

The Company Secretary, acting as Returning Officer, announced the following results:

- Carl Walters - re-elected.
- Greig Graham - re-elected.
- Matthew Binder - re-elected.
- Grant Chettleburgh - elected.
- Chris Rehm - elected.

The meeting acknowledged the service and contribution of Rob Nadebaum and Valentina Tripp, and also acknowledged Lucy Wilson, who had stepped down at the end of the previous year.

The Chair congratulated the returning and newly elected Directors and thanked all candidates who had nominated.

Item 9 - Appointment of the Auditor

The Chair advised that, following review by the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee, Irrigation Australia recommended the continuation of FSA Tax and Advisory Partners as auditor for the 2026–27 financial year.

The quoted audit fee of $17,802 excluding GST was noted.

The Chair presented the following resolution:

That FSA Tax and Advisory Partners be appointed as the company's auditors for the 2026–27 financial year.

No Member opposed the resolution.

Resolution: Carried unanimously.

Item 10 - Other Business and Final Questions

Following completion of the formal business, the Chair invited any further questions or comments.

- Mr Chris Rehm asked whether the scope of the external audit covered governance and operational compliance in addition to the financial statements.
- The Company Secretary advised that the audit was a financial audit and did not constitute a broader review of how the business is operated or of compliance with all governance requirements.
- Mr Durand noted that IAL has an ongoing Governance Committee which separately monitors governance matters on a regular basis.

Close

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance, support and contributions and declared the meeting closed at approximately 11.50 am AEST.

Summary of Resolutions and Outcomes

- Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was declared open.
- The 2025 AGM minutes were noted as having been previously confirmed by the Board on 19 February 2026.
- The 2026 Financial Report, Directors' Report and Auditor's Report were tabled and noted; no resolution was required.
- Carl Walters, Greig Graham and Matthew Binder were re-elected as Directors; Grant Chettleburgh and Chris Rehm were elected as Directors.
- FSA Tax and Advisory Partners was appointed as auditor for the 2026–27 financial year. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Matters for Follow-up Noted During Member Discussion

The following matters arose from Member discussion and are recorded for ongoing management and Board attention. They were not formal resolutions of the AGM.

- Continue to strengthen awareness and practical recognition of IAL certification, including among end users, councils and government agencies, within available resources and with broader industry participation.
- Continue work with Western Australian partners on the irrigation trade and apprenticeship pathway and align training delivery with confirmed demand, funding and delivery capacity.
- Progress regional and agricultural engagement through dealer input, practical skills-based training, regional committees and partnerships with established industry events.
- Continue monitoring membership retention and revenue exposure as part of FY2026–27 financial management and Member-value work.
- Consider practical pathways for experienced practitioners seeking trade recognition, certification or related skills recognition, including partnership options where appropriate.