



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 19th meeting in Sydney on 13 and 14 May 2019.

The core focus of this 19th meeting of the Council was to consider the applications for funding received by the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund (AFTF) in conjunction with the views provided by the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee (AFTEC). I am pleased to advise that again an independent probity advisor was engaged to ensure that the Trust Fund process, particularly in relation to the operations of AFTEC and the Council were fair and equitable.

Following a community expression of interest calling for applications for funding from the AFTF, a total of 15 applications were received. The applications were reviewed and assessed on the extent of their potential to enhance, maintain and protect Aboriginal cultural fishing or provide economic opportunity for Aboriginal communities associated with the fisheries resource.

Other matters discussed during the meeting included an update on the Local Management Plan process and Aboriginal representative engagement in a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project investigating ways to 'Improving data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders marine resource use to inform decision-making'.

The Council was provided with a presentation on the progress of the Marine Estate Management Strategy Initiative 4 - protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate – on the South Coast. The Council was pleased to see the initiative is supporting economic growth for Aboriginal communities through the provision of targeted training around boat licences, employment both within the DPI and in the broader community through the promotion of cultural tourism and ranger programs, and is helping build stronger relationships with communities. Council would very much like to see these kind of initiatives replicated across the State, and specifically into inland areas.

Council also received an update on the work undertaken to date relating to the development of the NSW Aboriginal Aquaculture Strategy. The work undertaken to date is encouraging, and the Council have a strong desire to see this important work reach its conclusion and lead the way for greater participation of Aboriginal people and business in the aquaculture industry.

Danial Chapman

Chair

21 May 2019