

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 14th meeting in Dubbo Wednesday 3 May 2017.

Meeting provided opportunity for Council to receive updates and general information on fisheries management matters with relevance to the Aboriginal community and further the work Council has specific involvement with in delivering on the Government's initiatives and ongoing programs.

Issues of interest discussed included that of: progress of the commercial fisheries business adjustment program and its relevance to Aboriginal family owned commercial fishing businesses; fisheries science and the lack of involvement of Aboriginal people in fisheries resource management as well as data related to Aboriginal fishing; the development of aquaculture strategies and involvement of Aboriginal community in aquaculture along with the desire to see engagement between those undertaking ventures and the local Aboriginal community; fisheries compliance interactions; the national carp control plan; and, the marine estate threat and risk assessment work.

A specific focus of Council continues to be in the area of cultural fishing access and the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund (AFTF). Progression of the trialling of Aboriginal cultural fishing local management plans was covered in the meeting and in-depth consideration over the administration of the AFTF was undertaken and advice on matters was provided by Council.

Council members also took part in the pilot cultural awareness program being run for DPI Fisheries staff the previous day. Council members found the format and content was well designed and were encouraged to see the opportunity for staff to have the opportunity to build better understanding of Aboriginal community and issues in the context of management of fisheries resources. Council members are looking forward to continuing to be part of the program as it is rolled out across the state over the course of the next twelve months.

Next meeting of Council has been further discussed post meeting and is now being considered to be held early September 2017 in the Tweed area.

Danial Chapman
Chair
08 June 2017