



## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 15th meeting in Tweed Heads, Thursday 7 September 2017.

The meeting provided opportunity for Council to receive fisheries management updates and general information and provide its views on issues along with suggested direction on matters with relevance to the Aboriginal community. Council has specific involvement in providing advice and contributing to delivering on the Government's initiatives and ongoing programs.

The three main areas of discussion on the agenda for the meeting were on progress related to: implementation of the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund (AFTF); the pilot trial of Aboriginal cultural fishing local management plans (LMP); and, rollout of the DPI-Fisheries staff cultural awareness program (CAP).

Council continues to be keenly focussed on the governance and administration of the AFTF and has provided advice on a number of key administrative processes. As a result of its close engagement with the initiative, Council's confidence with the successful implementation and operations of the AFTF continues to grow

Progress to date on the LMP pilot trial shows a distinct commitment to transparent development of plans with free and informed involvement of community members. The draft engagement protocol was discussed, and shows there is a documented approach that will provide the necessary direction over engagement. It also aims to give community confidence to get involved.

Feedback on the latest CAP workshop held in Port Macquarie was reported to be a success with local Aboriginal community getting engaged and positive staff feedback indicating the worth of the program. The CAP is being championed by the Council as an important undertaking to build greater understanding of Aboriginal community's issues related to fisheries management. Council members are getting involved in workshops where possible.

Time on the agenda was set aside for Council to have a round table discussion with the Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council (MFAC), which has representation on it from all the different stakeholder groups (including AFAC) and has a responsibility for advising the Minister on strategic matters covering the broader fishery management space. The discussions provided opportunity for all members to directly communicate over matters of interest. Discussion focused on raising MFAC's awareness of areas of contention related to ensuring cultural fishing and successful implementation of economic development opportunities.

Danial Chapman

Chair Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council