



## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sydney on 12 & 13 June 2018.

The primary focus for this meeting was to review applications to the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund (AFTF) for the inaugural funding round (2017-18) and provide expenditure advice to the Minister.

Twenty five applications were received this funding round following an expression of interest process. Taking into consideration the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee's views of the applications, AFAC gave its consideration of the extent to which the applications enhanced, maintained and protected Aboriginal cultural fishing or provided economic opportunity for Aboriginal communities associated with the fisheries resource. An independent probity advisor was also engaged to ensure that the processes undertaken were fair and equitable.

The AFAC suggested 11 applications for funding, covering a wide range of activities benefitting Aboriginal people and communities living on the coast and inland areas. The applications supported included: assisting existing commercial fishing businesses, upgrading and expanding an existing aquaculture business, enhancement of cultural fishing grounds through fish habitat restoration, education programs that promote cultural fishing values, and workshops to facilitate cultural fishing practices.

Other issues discussed during the meeting included an overview of the Shark Management Strategy and updates on the AFAC membership application process; Local Management Plans; Cultural Awareness Program (CAP) and; Aboriginal fishing related research.

As the current terms of AFAC members have now expired, I would like to take this opportunity as outgoing Chair to wish the AFAC continued success in the future. I have enjoyed my time as region 10 representative and Chair of the Council and am proud of what we have been able to achieve in this time. There is still more to be done and I encourage the NSW Government to continue to seek input and advice from the Aboriginal people of NSW on fisheries related matters that affect them.

Danial Chapman

Chair