



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 18th meeting in Sydney on 18 & 19 October 2018.

As this was the first meeting of the new council membership appointed 30 August 2018, a key matter to resolve was the election of the AFAC Chair and Deputy Chair. The outcome of the election resulted in Mr Danny Chapman being elected as Chair, and Ms Chels Marshall elected as Deputy Chair.

The Chair position on the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee was also resolved, with Mr Dave Carter being appointed to the position.

DPI Fisheries provided the Council with updates from the various fisheries management areas including from Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture, Recreational Fisheries, the Marine Estate, and Fisheries Compliance.

The Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries also spent time with the Council discussing a range of fisheries matters including the success of the Cultural Awareness Program, the Local Management Plan process, the first funding round of the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund, Commercial fishing reforms and its effects on Aboriginal commercial fishers, and the Marine estate initiatives.

The Council raised for future conversation the need to consider how AFAC can become more engaged in water management issues in western NSW, which is a major and ongoing concern for Aboriginal communities and effects our fisheries.

Members reiterated their aspiration for Aboriginal communities in inland NSW to be provided with information about aquaculture opportunities. Resultantly, DPI Fisheries are working with AFAC to explore the opportunities freshwater aquaculture present for Aboriginal communities.

The Council was also very interested in and supportive of the Marine Estate Strategy initiative "South Coast Caring for Sea Country & Catchment Pilot Program", and is considering how a similar program might assist to address the needs and aspirations of freshwater communities.

Council was also debriefed on the first funding round of the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund and provided input on ways to improve the process and/or clarify aspects for future rounds.

Daniel Chapman

Chair

12 November 2018