

## Chair's Summary

### Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council

The Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) held its 25th meeting in Sydney on 21 and 22 June 2022. The meeting commenced with members from the La Perouse Aboriginal community opening proceedings and welcoming participants to country.

This was the first meeting of the newly appointed Council, which includes members who have previously served on AFAC, and other members new to the Council. The first day of the meeting was facilitated by DPI Fisheries until elections for the Chair were undertaken on the morning of the second day. The newly elected Chair commenced immediately in this role, to oversee elections for the AFAC Deputy Chair, and for the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee (AFTEC) Chair.

The Council focused on several current matters including the development of a framework for incorporating cultural fishing into Fisheries Harvest Strategy development, a new Aboriginal fisheries economic development project and updates on the development of Aboriginal cultural fishing Local Management Plans for the Hastings and Tweed Aboriginal communities. The Council was provided with further updates on Marine Estate Management Strategy – Initiative 4 – *Protecting Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate*, including highlights for the 2021/22 delivery of the initiative.

The Council received briefings and presentations from DPI Fisheries Executive and staff, welcoming members and outlining the department's responsibilities, as well as a broad range of other matters relating to the fisheries resource and marine and freshwater environments of NSW. AFAC will be kept informed and engaged in current fisheries and marine estate matters and other relevant projects as they progress.

The 2021/22 funding round for the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund was open at the time of the meeting. On closure of the application period a meeting of the AFTEC will be convened to assess applications received and to make recommendations to AFAC on expenditure for this funding round. The next AFAC meeting will be held shortly after to consider this advice and make its formal recommendations to the Minister.

Rene Woods

AFAC Chair

9 August 2022