

Chair's Summary

Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council

The Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) held its 28th meeting in Sydney on 30-31 May 2023.

A key priority for this meeting was to continue the discussions around the development of a cultural fishing regulation. The outcomes from a recent regulation working group meeting were presented to Council with the proposed options for moving forward were discussed. At the request of Council, more time was given for members to consider relevant information and an out-of-session meeting has been scheduled to progress.

Another key discussion topic for Council was the development of the AFAC Strategic Plan. Following on from the facilitated workshop undertaken in February, Council provided valuable feedback and comment on a draft outline of the AFAC Strategic Plan and resolved to continue refining the plan over the coming months. Alongside strategic planning discussions a vote was taken on the final artistic designs and logo that would represent the identity and branding of AFAC.

Potential ideas to support and increase opportunities for Aboriginal people to access share managed fisheries were discussed by Council with a sub-working group being nominated to continue working on the foundations of the draft concept.

The Council focused on several other current matters including progress of the cultural fishing framework for harvest strategies; the engagement phase of the Recreational Fishing Environmental Assessment (Saltwater); and AFAC representation in the DPI Fisheries Business Efficiency Program. AFAC will continue to have input into each of these important projects.

Updates on a range of other key issues and programs were also provided including the Menindee Fish Kill, the status and implementation of the Hastings and Tweed Local Management Plans, the Marine Estate Management Strategy (initiative 4) (protecting Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate) projects, the Aboriginal Fishing Business Development Program and, several other emerging projects and departmental matters.

Wayne Anderson
A/Deputy Chair (for this meeting of AFAC)