

**CABINET - SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION, 05 SEPTEMBER 2005 1:30 PM**

**Sub-Committee**

Not relevant



4	MAFF05/0026CS	Appointments to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee (AAC) <b>WITHDRAWN</b>
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Not relevant



TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 8 September 2005.

**Presiding Member**  
Mary Mitchell

**Industry Representatives**  
Bruce Zippel  
Brian Jeffriess  
Julianne Marshall  
Hagen Stehr AO

**Research and Development Representative**  
Barbara Nowak

**Environmental Conservation/Environmental Advocacy**  
Susan Carthew

**Local Government**  
Fred Pedler

**Aquaculture Act 2001**  
Ian Nightingale

**Environment Protection Act 1993**  
Peter Dolan

- 1.2 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following deputy members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 8 September 2005.

**Industry Representatives**  
Steven Mawer  
Andrew Christian  
Michael Whillas  
Simon Stone

**Research and Development Representative**  
Steven Clarke

Environmental Conservation/Environmental Advocacy  
Wolfgang Zeidler

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The AAC is one of two statutory bodies prescribed by the *Aquaculture Act 2001*. The Committee consists of 10 members appointed by the Governor. The Committee's role is to advise the Minister on matters relating to aquaculture, particularly relevant to the administration of the Act, the policies that govern, or should govern, the administration of the Act and proposals to make regulations under the Act, or to make amendments to the Act. The AAC may also be required to perform other functions assigned to the AAC by the Act or the Minister.
- 2.2 Nominations were called in the categories prescribed by the Act in February 2005. These nominations have now been reviewed by the Minister and are presented for Cabinet's endorsement.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The recommended candidates have been selected for their ability to provide sound advice to the Government on the development of aquaculture policies, and to bring to the attention of the Government any relevant issues. The industry nominees, in particular, were of a very high quality and those selected have represented their sectors and aquaculture more generally at local, state and national levels.

3.2 Economic, financial and budget implications

The AAC will assist in the development of aquaculture policies. These policies will form the basis for future development of the aquaculture industry. Currently the aquaculture industry contributes \$356m direct business turnover, and \$617m in flow-on and value adding to the State's economy.

A budget consideration of \$21,350 has been allocated from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources Aquaculture's budget to support the AAC by way of sitting fees and travel expenses.

3.3 State development, social environmental and other impacts

The aquaculture industry is providing enormous benefits to regional South Australia with much needed employment and investment. In some areas it has arrested the population decline experienced by many rural communities.

The AAC will ensure an integrated approach to the development and endorsement of statutory policy, which will ensure the ecologically sustainable development of all aquaculture.

3.4 **Staffing implications**

The Executive Support to the AAC will be performed by existing PIRSA Aquaculture staff.

3.5 **Executive Council**

The *Aquaculture Act 2001* requires that the Governor in Executive Council will appoint members and deputy members to the AAC.

3.6 **Nominee Background – Full Members**

Presiding Member

***Ms Mary Mitchell***

Ms Mitchell has management experience in the infrastructure industry, and is a qualified lawyer with experience in corporate and commercial fields. Ms Mitchell has had more than 10 years board experience with not for profit, and for profit organisations. Included in this experience, Ms Mitchell has held the position of Chair for a number of these boards.

Industry Representatives

***Mr Bruce Zippel***

Mr Zippel is an outgoing member of the AAC. He is actively involved in the aquaculture industry as one of the owner/operators of Zippel Enterprises Pty Ltd that has shellfish farms within Smoky Bay, primarily focused on Pacific oysters but now investigating other species. Mr Zippel would bring a diverse cross-section of knowledge and experience to the AAC. Current memberships held by Mr Zippel are:

- Chairman of the National Aquaculture Council, and member since its inception;
- Inaugural and current Chairman of the South Australian Aquaculture Council;
- Inaugural Director of the South Australian Oyster Research Council;
- Member of the Smoky Bay Aquaculture Park Working Group;
- Member of the OYSA subcommittee (within SAOGA); and
- Member of the National Aquaculture Development Committee.

***Mr Brian Jeffriess***

Mr Jeffriess is an outgoing member of the AAC and current Chair and CEO of the Tuna Boat Owners Association, which represents tuna farmers in South Australia. He has also managed the industry input to tuna ranching within industry, with the South Australian and Federal Governments, and overseas industries and governments. This includes research and development, marketing, legislation, and management plans. Other memberships include:

- Director of the Australian and SA Aquaculture Councils;
- Member of the National Aquaculture Agenda Implementation Committee;
- Member of the Quarantine and Export Council;
- Deputy Chair of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority;
- Director of two South Australian training institutions; and
- Director of the Aquafin CRC.

Mr Jeffriess brings a range of relevant skills to the AAC both from the tuna and general seafood industry.

***Ms Julianne Marshall***

Ms Marshall is a joint partner of Mar-Shell Aquaculture, which currently holds oyster leases in Kellidie Bay and Port Douglas Bay, and has a solid understanding of the necessary steps taken to develop a new industry, including involvement in the strategic planning for both the overseas and domestic markets. As an active member of the Douglas Group, Ms Marshall carried out a commercial Research and Development program that laid the groundwork for the expansion of the industry in the Port Douglas Bay Zone in Coffin Bay. Ms Marshall also has an understanding of how various government departments operate including PIRSA, Minister's Office, Development Assessment Commission, and the Environment and Natural Resources Court. Committees where Ms Marshall has been involved are:

- Secretary South Australian Oyster Growers Association – Coffin Bay Zone; and
- Active member of the Douglas Group (a group of five individual oyster farmers).

Ms Marshall's background and experience would be instrumental in achieving balance within the AAC.

***Mr Hagen Stehr***

Mr Hagen Stehr AO is an outgoing member of the AAC and has been involved in many areas of the aquaculture industry. He is the largest marine finfish farmer in the State, pioneering large scale grow out of yellowtail kingfish and mulloway. Mr Stehr AO is founder and Chairman of the Australian Fisheries Academy and Chairman of the Seafood Industry Training Council for Aquaculture, as well as a member of the South Australian Marine Finfish Farmers Association. As such Mr Stehr AO has provided the AAC with advice with respect to the large investor farmer.

Environmental Advocacy

***Dr Susan Carthew***

Dr Carthew is an ecologist and an academic in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide. In the absence of an environmental conservation and environmental advocacy representative on the Committee, Dr Susan Carthew, had been invited by the outgoing Presiding Member, Mr Richard Stevens to attend the last two AAC meetings as an observer. Dr Carthew has sat on various Government committees over the years, including the Australian Heritage Commission Natural Areas Evaluation Panel, National Parks and Wildlife Council, and Wildlife Advisory Committee. Dr Carthew is also the SA regional councillor for the Ecological Society of Australia and the Head of Discipline for Environmental Biology.

Research and Development

***Dr Barbara Nowak***

Dr Barbara Nowak is a Senior Lecturer, School of Aquaculture at the University of Tasmania, as well as holding the position of Aquafin CRC Health Program Leader. Dr Nowak has a broad research experience in several areas at a number of universities and research institutions. In her role as Health Program Leader in Aquafin CRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish), Dr Nowak has been involved with four main institutions, international collaborators and aquaculture industry. Dr Nowak would make a valuable contribution to the AAC.

Local Government

***Mr Fred Pedler***

Mr Pedler, Executive Officer, Southern and Hills Local Government Association, was nominated by the Local Government Association and is also an outgoing member of the AAC. Mr Pedler is an experienced senior manager in Local Government with over 25 years as a Chief Executive Officer with four Councils in different regions of the State.

Environment Protection Act 1993

***Mr Peter Dolan***

The Hon John Hill MP has nominated, Mr Peter Dolan, Director Pollution Avoidance Division, Environment Protection Authority. Mr Dolan is also an outgoing member of the AAC.

Aquaculture Act 2001

***Mr Ian Nightingale***

Mr Ian Nightingale, Executive Director, Aquaculture Division, PIRSA, is also an outgoing member of the AAC. I nominate Mr Nightingale as a person engaged in the administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

### 3.7 **Nominee Background – Deputy Members**

#### Industry Representatives

##### ***Michael Whillas***

Mr Whillas is also an outgoing member of the AAC, and has been involved in fisheries and aquaculture management since 1992, having participated in numerous committees. Current committees consist of:

- President of the South Australian Oysters Growers Association since 1996;
- Director of the South Australian Seafood Council (Aquaculture) since 1999;
- Chair of the Australian Seafood Training Review Committee since 1999;
- Seafood Council representative on Native Title negotiations; and
- Member for South Australian Food Health Advisory Committee for Prawns, Rocklobster and Aquaculture.

Mr Whillas has provided the AAC with consistent advice regarding the oyster industry and associated politics.

##### ***Steven Mawer***

Mr Mawer has been involved in the aquaculture industry in South Australia for 15 years and was employed by SARDI Aquatic Sciences between 1994-1996. Since leaving SARDI Mr Mawer assisted with the development of the Cleanseas aquaculture facility at Arno Bay. In November 2003 Mr Mawer purchased barramundi farms at Kangarilla with the intention of producing 200 tonnes in 2006/2007 from this site. Current memberships and associations are as follows:

- Foundation member and past President of the South Australian Marine Finfish Farmers Association;
- Chairman of the Inland Aquaculture Association of South Australia;
- Observer at South Australian Aquaculture Council meetings;
- Member Barramundi Farmers Association; and
- Member Fish Breeders Association.

##### ***Simon Stone***

Dr Stone has been intimately involved in the development of the marine finfish industry for 6 years and is currently the Chair of the SA Marine Finfish Association. Other professional associations include:

- Member of the SA Aquaculture Council;
- Director of Environmental Protection Authority;
- Chair of the Wildlife Advisory Council; and
- Member of National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

Dr Stone's expertise is in most areas of commercial marine finfish growout and hatchery operations, not to mention a sound knowledge of most conservation and environmental issues associated with aquaculture operations. Dr Stone would make a valuable contribution to the AAC's continued development across a broad range of commercial and environmental issues.

**Andrew Christian**

Mr Christian's primary role over the past 5-6 years has been in the development of a land-based abalone farm at Southern Australian Seafoods, and has been involved with all aspects of development from research and development through to environmental considerations. Mr Christian has also been working on an abalone sea-based system for the last three years and has a lease site being processed.

Environmental Advocacy

**Wolfgang Zeidler**

Dr Zeidler has worked with the South Australian Museum for 30 years and during that time has gained a wide-ranging knowledge of the marine environment of Southern Australia and inland aquatic habitats, specifically in relation to the biology and systematics of invertebrates. Dr Zeidler has also been involved in the development of State and National policy, more recently as a member of the 'SA Marine and Estuarine Technical Reference Group' and the 'Marine Protected Areas Task Force and Scientific Advisory Group'. In addition Dr Zeidler has been consulted in regard to the development of 'Australia's Oceans Policy' and the 'South-east Regional Marine Plan'. Current memberships include:

- Australian Marine Science Association;
- Royal Society of South Australia; and
- Nature Conservation Society of South Australia.

Research and Development

**Steven Clarke**

Mr Clarke is the Program Leader, Aquaculture, SARDI – Aquatic Sciences, and has a strong background in environmental impact and benthic community ecology, including a high level scientific knowledge of the South Australian marine environment. Mr Clark has managed aquaculture research and development in South Australia since 1987, and this has provided him with the opportunity to undertake and manage a wide range of aquaculture related research and development activities. From 1997 Mr Clarke has been Fisheries Research and Development Corporation southern bluefin tuna Aquaculture Subprogram Leader and from 2002 Leader, Aquafin CRC Production and Value Adding Programs.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 4.1 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 8 September 2005.

**Presiding Member**  
Mary Mitchell

**Industry Representatives**  
Bruce Zippel  
Brian Jeffriess  
Julianne Marshall  
Hagen Stehr AO

**Research and Development Representative**  
Barbara Nowak

**Environmental Conservation/Environmental Advocacy**  
Susan Carthew

**Local Government**  
Fred Pedler

**Aquaculture Act 2001**  
Ian Nightingale

**Environment Protection Act 1993**  
Peter Dolan

- 4.2 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following deputy members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 8 September 2005.

**Industry Representatives**  
Steven Mawer  
Andrew Christian  
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**Research and Development Representative**  
Steven Clarke

**Environmental Conservation/Environmental Advocacy**  
Wolfgang Zeidler

- 4.3 Cabinet approves this document as a document to which access may be given under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.



**Hon Rory McEwen MP**  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE FOOD AND FISHERIES  
MINISTER FOR STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
MINISTER FOR FORESTS

Date: 30 AUG 2005

TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 1 September 2005.

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**Aquaculture Act 2001**  
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Michael Whillas  
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2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The AAC is one of two statutory bodies prescribed by the *Aquaculture Act 2001*. The Committee consists of 10 members appointed by the Governor. The Committee's role is to advise the Minister on matters relating to aquaculture, particularly relevant to the administration of the Act, the policies that govern, or should govern, the administration of the Act and proposals to make regulations under the Act, or to make amendments to the Act. The AAC may also be required to perform other functions assigned to the AAC by the Act or the Minister.
- 2.2 Nominations were called in the categories prescribed by the Act in February 2005. These nominations have now been reviewed by the Minister and are presented for Cabinet's endorsement.

3. **DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The recommended candidates have been selected for their ability to provide sound advice to the Government on the development of aquaculture policies, and to bring to the attention of the Government any relevant issues. The industry nominees, in particular, were of a very high quality and those selected have represented their sectors and aquaculture more generally at local, state and national levels.

3.2 **Economic, financial and budget implications**

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***Mr Hagen Stehr***

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Environmental Advocacy***Dr Susan Carthew***

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Research and Development***Dr Barbara Nowak***

Dr Barbara Nowak is a Senior Lecturer, School of Aquaculture at the University of Tasmania, as well as holding the position of Aquafin CRC Health Program Leader. Dr Nowak has a broad research experience in several areas at a number of universities and research institutions. In her role as Health Program Leader in Aquafin CRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish), Dr Nowak has been involved with four main institutions, international collaborators and aquaculture industry. Dr Nowak would make a valuable contribution to the AAC.

Local Government***Mr Fred Pedler***

Mr Pedler, Executive Officer, Southern and Hills Local Government Association, was nominated by the Local Government Association and is also an outgoing member of the AAC. Mr Pedler is an experienced senior manager in Local Government with over 25 years as a Chief Executive Officer with four Councils in different regions of the State.

Environment Protection Act 1993***Mr Peter Dolan***

The Hon John Hill MP has nominated, Mr Peter Dolan, Director Pollution Avoidance Division, Environment Protection Authority. Mr Dolan is also an outgoing member of the AAC.

Aquaculture Act 2001***Mr Ian Nightingale***

Mr Ian Nightingale, Executive Director, Aquaculture Division, PIRSA, is also an outgoing member of the AAC. I nominate Mr Nightingale as a person engaged in the administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

### 3.7 Nominee Background – Deputy **Members** Industry Representatives

#### **Michael Whillas**

Mr Whillas is also an outgoing member of the AAC, and has been involved in fisheries and aquaculture management since 1992, having participated in numerous committees. Current committees consist of:

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- Chair of the Australian Seafood Training Review Committee since 1999;
- Seafood Council representative on **Native Title** negotiations; and
- Member for South Australian Food Health Advisory Committee for Prawns, Rocklobster and Aquaculture.

Mr Whillas has provided the AAC with consistent advice regarding the oyster industry and associated politics.

#### **Steven Mawer**

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- Foundation member and past President of the South Australian Marine Finfish Farmers Association;
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#### **Simon Stone**

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- Member of the SA Aquaculture Council;
- Director of **Environmental Protection Authority**;
- Chair of the Wildlife Advisory Council; and
- Member of **National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council**.

Dr Stone's expertise is in most areas of commercial marine finfish growout and hatchery operations, not to mention a sound knowledge of most conservation and environmental issues associated with aquaculture operations. Dr Stone would make a valuable contribution to the AAC's continued development across a broad range of commercial and environmental issues.

***Andrew Christian***

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Environmental Advocacy***Wolfgang Zeidler***

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Research and Development***Steven Clarke***

Mr Clarke is the Program Leader, Aquaculture, SARDI – Aquatic Sciences, and has a strong background in environmental impact and benthic community ecology, including a high level scientific knowledge of the South Australian marine environment. Mr Clark has managed aquaculture research and development in South Australia since 1987, and this has provided him with the opportunity to undertake and manage a wide range of aquaculture related research and development activities. From 1997 Mr Clarke has been Fisheries Research and Development Corporation southern bluefin tuna Aquaculture Subprogram Leader and from 2002 Leader, Aquafin CRC Production and Value Adding Programs.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 4.1 Cabinet recommend that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the following members to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, for a term not exceeding 3 years, commencing on 1 September 2005.

**Presiding Member**

Mary Mitchell

**Industry Representatives**

Bruce Zippel

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**Hon Rory McEwen MP**  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE FOOD AND FISHERIES  
MINISTER FOR STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
MINISTER FOR FORESTS

Date: 30 AUG 2005