

Not relevant



607 AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NOTED

Not relevant



TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET TO NOTE

RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

For Cabinet to note that it is proposed to seek endorsement to appoint members and deputy members of the Aquaculture Advisory Committee (AAC) in accordance with provisions of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*. The current membership for the AAC expired on 23 May 2005.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the *Aquaculture Act 2001* coming into operation on 1 July 2002, appointments were made to the AAC under the provisions of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1915*, which were subsequently published in the South Australian Government Gazette on 23 May 2002. Following this, the AAC was formed as a Statutory Body in accordance with provisions of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*. A member of the AAC is appointed on conditions determined by the Governor for a term, not exceeding 3 years, however all members are eligible for reappointment at the end of a term.

PIRSA Aquaculture advertised calling for nominations for all positions on the AAC as prescribed by the *Aquaculture Act 2001*:

- 1 person engaged in the administration of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, nominated by the Minister responsible for that Act;
- 4 persons who have appropriate practical knowledge of and experience in the aquaculture industry;
- 1 person with appropriate knowledge of and experience in research and development relevant to the aquaculture industry;
- 1 person with appropriate practical knowledge of and experience in environmental conservation and advocacy on environmental matters on behalf of community organisations; and
- 3 persons nominated by the Local Government Association (from which one will be selected)

In addition, the Act requires the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to nominate a presiding member and one person engaged in the administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

DISCUSSION

Appropriate nominations for membership of the AAC have been received and recommendations accepted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in the following areas:

- Presiding Member
- Industry Representatives
- Research and Development
- Environmental Conservation/Environmental Advocacy
- Local Government Association
- Administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*
- Administration of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Full Members

The following are names and a brief background of nominees in each of the categories prescribed by the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

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 Board 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 SA 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 ground work 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 Ms Marshall has been involved in 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 yellow tail kingfish and mullocky. 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 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. Ms Wendy Campana, Executive Director, Local Government Association of South Australia, wrote to the Hon Rory McEwen MP submitting their nomination. 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 wrote to the Hon Rory McEwen MP submitting their nomination, 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. Mr Nightingale is nominated by the Hon Rory McEwen MP as a person engaged in the administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

In order to address potential problems that may occur where a quorum of the AAC (6 members) are unavailable to fulfil a function or functions of the AAC, additional nominations under each category have been put forward to act as a proxy in the absence of an AAC member or members. Refer *Aquaculture Act 2001* Terms and conditions of membership 66. (2) "*The Governor may appoint a person to be the deputy of a member of the AAC and the deputy may act as a member of the AAC during any period of absence of the member*".

Deputy Members

The following are names of nominees in each of the categories prescribed by the *Aquaculture Act 2001*.

Industry RepresentativesMichael 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 FRDC SBT Aquaculture Subprogram Leader and from 2002 Leader, Aquafin CRC Production and Value Adding Programs.

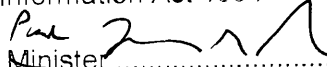
A proposal will be forwarded to the Premier for Cabinet Sub-Committee recommending Cabinet endorse the recommendation that Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council appoint the preferred candidates as accepted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

It is recommended that 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

CERTIFIED as a document approved by Cabinet on 29/8 05 as a document to which access may be given under the Freedom of Information Act 1991


Signature of Minister

In Cabinet

Date: 24 AUG 2005

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PREMIER