

Communique

The Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee (AWC IRC) held their first meeting for 2022 on Friday, 17 June via Zoom conferencing.

This meeting focused on Industry updates and the impacts of recent floods and skill/labour shortages, draft AWC Industry Skills Report, VET Reform progress and AISC updates.

Industry Intelligence

IRC members presented their latest industry intelligence and engagement to the meeting. Common themes to emerge included:

- significant post-flood impacts to industry recovery – stock losses, harvesting issues
- rising fuel prices impacting supply chains in particular on wild catch sector
- lack of access to labour
- notable diver shortages despite uptake in training
- continued labour losses to mining sector
- retention issues.

VET Reform

Skills Impact thanked the committee members for their support letters with sincere thanks and reported that on behalf of industry and at their request Skills Impact submitted a grant application at the end of March with over 200 industry support letters. Stage 2 of the grant process will be about the work plan and its establishment. Skills Impact is well prepared because of their work with the IRCs and Industry Skills Reports.

Industry Skills Reports

Draft Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Skills Report was provided and discussed. Changes to the draft were noted and additional changes to be provided prior to broad public consultation in July.

CRC Northern Australia Aquaculture Workforce Program

CRCNA program is coming to an end. There has been robust research of the national SFI Training Package which is sufficient for all the skills needed and no gaps have been identified. The program has mapped biosecurity training materials from the SFI units of competency as adequate and useful both for university and VET learners.

Next Meeting

Potential dates were identified with consensus for 6-7 September. Exact details still to be confirmed.