

Communique

Meeting No: 2019.02
9 October 2019

The Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Melbourne on 9 October.

This was the second meeting for 2019 and present were IRC members and guests, including State and Territory Industry Training Advisory Bodies.

Thanks and acknowledgements were conveyed to departing IRC member Rory Byrne and a warm welcome to James Garde.

Developing the Draft Skills Forecast

Skills Impact reported the anticipated change to the way the Industry Skills Forecast document is developed. The IRC will continue to verify content is current to ensure its relevance and accuracy as well as include new and changed industry challenges, opportunities and identified skills gaps in the new Annual Update template to be confirmed at next AISC meeting.

Fishtech and Aquabotics Project

The committee was given a briefing on the proposed project plan. The new SFI project manager was introduced to the IRC and spoke reported on the outcomes from the recent Subject Matter Expert (SME) meeting in Hobart. Drafts are due to be uploaded to website for public consultation in November.

The committee noted the progress report and plan.

Work with Crocodiles Project

Skills Impact briefed the IRC on the industry support leading up to the project's successful approval with the AISC and proposed timeframes. The unique considerations regarding the project and its 'specialised' nature was discussed and the IRC agreed public consultation locations needed to reflect this as well as ensuring we are capturing the Indigenous voice and input into the project.

The IRC discussed the unique training considerations to delivering training on country and the various Ranger programs and potential partners to be involved in consultation.

Joyce Report update

The IRC discussed the implementation of the Joyce Report, noting the Federal Government have been moving ahead with changes, including the Co-Design workshops covering:

- The establishment of a National Skills Commission, with an appointment of a Commissioner to be made soon
- Seeking feedback on Skills Organisations and potential piloting
- Complexity around indigenous issues

Regional Rural and Remote Issues

The National Regional, Rural, Remote (RRR) Education Strategy and map was also provided and discussed.

Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee

The committee discussed labour force and skills issues in regions, TAFE access and delivery, migration & workforce availability including pay and conditions. Further, the IRC discuss broader issues of projects abandoned Regional, Rural and Remote locations due to no reliable access to labour.

General business

The IRC had a general discussion about the IRC membership renewal process. Skills Impact will draft paper for IRC consideration and further discussion at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Aquaculture and Wild Catch IRC will be held in March / April 2020.