



Australian Government  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NO. 67

MEETING RECORD

26 NOVEMBER 2015

CHAIR: MR IAN CARTWRIGHT



## TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSSAC)

Meeting No. 67  
Location: Teleconference  
Date: 26 November 2015  
Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm (AEST)

### AGENDA

#### Meeting administration

1. Preliminaries - Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners/Chair's Opening Remarks/Meeting attendance/Declaration of Interests/Apologies
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Correspondence
4. Ratification of TSSAC 66 Minutes
5. Action Items from TSSAC 66

#### Management updates

6. AFMA management update
7. PNG management update

#### Research updates

8. Status of committed & ongoing research projects
9. Indigenous Reference Group update

#### Future research

10. Research budget 2016/17
11. Research priorities and call for 2016/17

#### Other Business

12. Next meeting



## ATTENDANCE – TSSAC 67 (26 November 2015)

Name	Membership Status	Declaration of Interest
Mr. Ian Cartwright	Chair	Independent Consultant
Ms. Selina Stoute	AFMA Representative	None declared
Ms. Claire Wallis	Executive Officer (AFMA)	None declared
Dr Michael O'Neill	Scientific Member	Fisheries Scientist, QDAF
Ms. Sevaly Sen	Scientific Member	Independent Consultant
Dr Stephen Newman	Scientific Member	Fisheries Scientist, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia
Mr. Tom Roberts	QDAF Representative	Fisheries Management Officer, QDAF
Ms. Mariana Nahas	TSRA Representative	Fisheries Project Manager, TSRA
Dr Roland Pitcher	Scientific Member	Fisheries Scientist, CSIRO
Mr Chris Calogeras	Observer, Executive Officer for the Indigenous Reference Group	None declared
Stan Lui	Observer, Chairperson for the Indigenous Reference Group	None declared
Graeme Hirakawa	Industry Observer	None declared
Kevin Sabatino	Industry Observer	None declared

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Tony Vass (Industry member), Mr Kenny Bedford (TSRA Board Member, Fisheries Portfolio, observer), Mr Ian Liviko (Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority, observer) and Mr Phillip Ketchell (Traditional Inhabitant Representative for Kaiwalagal, member).

The following members were absent from the meeting without notification; Mr Paul Kabai (Traditional Inhabitant representative for Gudumalulgal, member), Mr Jerry Stephen (Traditional Inhabitant representative for Kemer Kemer Miriam, member) and Mr Maluwap Nona (Traditional Inhabitant Representative for Maluialgal, member).

Mr Ned Larry (Traditional Inhabitant Representative for Kulkalgal, member) could not be contacted for the meeting.



## Action Items – TSSAC #67

No.	Action Item	Agenda no.	Responsible Party	Due date
1	Executive Officer to provide the 2016-17 draft Call for Research to absent industry members for comment, with any comments to be distributed to the TSSAC out of session.	1	AFMA	
2	Future draft correspondence from the TSSAC Chair that refers to the TSRA to be provided to the TSRA for feedback	3	AFMA	Ongoing
3	AFMA to develop a paper outlining the objectives of the Turtle and Dugong Discussion Group, and focusing on the future needs of the group, to be completed by 30 June 2016 (carried over from TSSAC 66)	5	AFMA	30 June 2016
4	AFMA to clarify expected 2016 project completion date with Prof Nakata, and advise TSSAC members to allow determination of whether PI or other to complete	8	AFMA	
5	AFMA to distribute revised budget table to TSSAC members out of session	10	AFMA	Completed on 2 December 2015
6	AFMA to align the call for research with table of priorities in OP, and distribute for comment out-of-session	11	AFMA	Completed on 30 November 2015
7	AFMA to circulate advice on a future TSSAC research timetable and process for comment out-of-session.	11	AFMA	
8	AFMA to publish the call for research ASAP, taking into account editorial amendments to be recommended by Members out-of-session	11	AFMA	



## **Meeting Administration**

### **Agenda Item 1 - Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners/Chair's Opening Remarks/Meeting attendance/Declaration of Interests/Apologies**

1. The Chair welcomed the TSSAC members, observers and acknowledged the traditional owners. Declarations of interest were taken as standing, and a request made that members and observers declare affiliations or interests in specific projects or agenda items as the meeting progressed.
2. The Committee NOTED that no industry representative members were present, including some that had not made apologies.
3. The Committee AGREED that absent industry representatives be provided an opportunity to give advice on 2016-17 research priorities as the key discussion item for the meeting, and that the 2016-17 draft call for research document be provided to absent industry members for further comment.
4. The Committee WELCOMED the two Traditional Inhabitant industry observers in attendance.

*Action Item 1 – Executive Officer to provide the 2016-17 draft Call for Research to absent industry members for comment, with any comments to be distributed to the TSSAC out of session.*

### **Agenda Item 2 - Review and Adoption of Agenda**

5. The Committee adopted the agenda without change.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Correspondence**

6. The Committee NOTED the incoming and outgoing correspondence since Meeting 66, held on 27 March 2015.
7. The TSRA member raised concern that letters from the TSSAC relating to potential commitments by the TSRA have not been shared with the TSRA for comment prior to distribution. The TSRA member requested that TSRA be provided an opportunity to comment on any draft correspondence originating from the TSSAC in these instances.
8. The Committee AGREED for future draft correspondence from the TSSAC Chair that refers to the TSRA to be provided to the TSRA for feedback.

*Action Item 2 - Future draft correspondence from the TSSAC Chair that refers to the TSRA to be provided to the TSRA for feedback.*

### **Agenda Item 4 - Ratification of TSSAC 66 Minutes**

9. The Committee ratified the minutes of TSSAC 66 as a true and accurate record.

### **Agenda Item 5 - Action Items from TSSAC 66**

10. The Committee NOTED the progress against actions arising from TSSAC Meeting 66, held on 27 March 2015.
11. The Committee requested for Action Item 2 from TSSAC Meeting 66 relating to the development of a paper outlining the objectives of the Turtle and Dugong Discussion Group to be completed by 30 June 2016.

*Action Item 3 - AFMA to develop a paper outlining the objectives of the Turtle and Dugong Discussion Group, and focusing on the future needs of the group, to be completed by 30 June 2016 (carried over from TSSAC 66)*

## **Management Updates**

### **Agenda Item 6 – AFMA management update**



12. The Committee NOTED the update from AFMA on issues relevant to fisheries research in the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – PNG management update**

13. The Committee NOTED the paper providing an update on Papua New Guinea specific matters relevant to fisheries research in the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

#### **Research Updates**

#### **Agenda Item 8 - Status of committed and ongoing research projects**

14. The Committee NOTED the status of committed and ongoing research projects related to Torres Strait Fisheries.
15. The Committee NOTED advice that Professor Nakata, the Principal Investigator (PI) on *Consultative and administrative processes scientific research in the Torres Strait islands* had advised AFMA on 15 November 2015 that he would be unable to complete the work in 2015 as contracted, and a request for advice on whether or not AFMA should seek for him to continue.
16. The Committee NOTED that AFMA had sought confirmation regarding the PI's precise expected completion date and was awaiting a response. The Committee will provide further advice on the acceptability of that timeline based on the forthcoming response.

*Action Item 4: AFMA to clarify expected 2016 project completion date with Prof Nakata, and advise TSSAC members to allow determination of whether PI or other to complete. Open ended/ongoing unacceptable, will look elsewhere.*

#### **Agenda item 9 - Indigenous Reference Group update**

17. The Committee NOTED and WELCOMED the update provided by the Chairperson and Executive Officer of the Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) regarding priorities, processes and existing projects. In particular;
- a. The IRG Executive Officer (EO) outlined the IRG priorities and processes, and areas of interest. It was explained that the IRG was brought together by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and is made up of members from around Australia to fill a void around indigenous Research & Development in relation to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).
  - b. The IRG Chairperson explained that the IRG is governed by the FRDC Board, which is responsible for final decisions on projects. A set process and research cycle is in place which they must adhere to. The Chairperson also explained that IRG members are not acting as community representatives; rather they are selected through a merit based recruitment process for technical knowledge and experience. The IRG operates on a small administrative budget and members volunteer, supported by the EO.
  - c. Two workshops have been held since the creation of the IRG, and the Torres Strait was represented. The workshops developed 11 high level principles, and a further 5 strategic areas of focus for R&D. Each of those details specific actions that may help address the priorities.
  - d. The funding cycle is similar to other Research & Development Corporations and AFMA's process. The funding process passes through an external and internal decision making process for funding each year. The project assessment parameters are set out in the 11 key principles, and the IRG seeks to hold stakeholder forums every 2-3 years to ensure relevancy of funded projects. The research theme changes annually. In 2014 the focus was improving identification of values in relation to indigenous engagement with a resource. The 2015 priority area was business development opportunities, and the process has recently concluded. The IRG assessed projects across a range of criteria, and recommendations were provided to the FRDC.



- e. In addition to setting independent annual themes and priorities, the IRG also encourages aboriginal research, and provides input on all projects the FRDC receives, in order to improve indigenous engagement or outputs from those projects.
- f. All projects funded by the IRG need to have outputs that are transferable between regions, rather than being solely region specific.

## **Future Research**

### **Agenda Item 10 – Research Budget 2016/2017**

- 18. The Committee NOTED the status of AFMA's Torres Strait research funding budget, including advice from AFMA that the overall budget for 2016/17 financial year is expected to remain around \$400,000, though this will not be finalised until 2016.
- 19. The Committee NOTED an error in the budget table provided, and REQUESTED that AFMA distribute an updated budget table out of session.

*Action Item 5 – AFMA to distribute revised budget table to TSSAC members out of session*

### **Agenda Item 11 – Research priorities and call for 2016/17**

- 20. The Committee ENDORSED the draft project scopes for research funding in 2016-17 tables at the meeting, noting that:
  - a. the proposed project scopes relating to the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery reflect recommendations made by the TRL Resource Assessment Group and Working Group;
  - b. AFMA's commitment to establish Harvest Strategies for all commercial fisheries;
  - c. the proposed project scopes are generally consistent with the most recent TSSAC Strategic Research Plan and Operating Plan; and
  - d. the Finfish Working Group will be convened in 2016 and provided an opportunity to comment on any research funding applications received relevant to the Finfish Fishery and subject to:
    - e. taking into account editorial amendments to be recommended by Members out-of-session;
    - f. making it clear that potential funding applicants may use the TSSAC Operational Plan as a guide when developing research funding proposals; and
    - g. AFMA reviewing the TSSAC Operational Plan to ensure consistency with the draft project scopes and circulate any proposed changes to Members for comment.
- 21. The Committee NOTED the value of priority setting in advance, allowing the potential support of agreed lower priority projects should funding be available following allocation to high priority projects.
- 22. The Committee NOTED the importance of the PZJA research consultation and assessment process in ensuring well-targeted, cost-effective and efficient fisheries research investment in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. The Committee emphasised the need for consultation with both fishery specific consultative forums and the TSSAC and REQUESTED that:
  - a. AFMA circulate for comment out-of-session advice on a future TSSAC research timetable and process.

*Action Item 6 – AFMA to review the TSSAC Operational Plan to ensure consistency with the draft project scopes and circulate any proposed changes to Members for comment.*

*Action Item 7 – AFMA to circulate advice on a future TSSAC research timetable and process for comment out-of-session.*



*Action Item 8 – AFMA to publish the call for research ASAP, taking into account editorial amendments to be recommended by Members out-of-session*

**Other Business**

**Agenda Item 12 - Confirmation of TSSAC meeting 67.**

23. The Committee NOTED that for short meetings teleconferences appear to work well, and to be a cost effective, efficient format.
24. The Committee NOTED that Meeting 68 is likely to be held in March 2016.

RATIFIED

