

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 8 16-17 June 2009
FINANCE Independent chair costs	Agenda Item No. 5.2 FOR DECISION

RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2 The TSPMAC NOTES:

- (a) the costs that would be incurred by hiring an independent chair for the TSPMAC.

BACKGROUND

At TSPMAC No. 5, members discussed the possibility of using the services of an independent Chair. Industry members commented that an independent chair would provide an important view on issues within the fishery, without there being a potential conflict of interest. AFMA reviewed the Torres Strait fisheries budget and confirmed that no funds to date had been previously budgeted for an independent TSPMAC Chair.

Information regarding the costs of an independent chair were presented at TSPMAC 6, however as industry members were not present, it was agreed the paper should be provided at the next face to face TSPMAC meeting.

DISCUSSION

On request from the TSPMAC the Executive Officer of the TSPMAC has determined the costs associated with using the services of an independent TSPMAC chair (Table 5.2A below). It is estimated that an additional \$8,526 would be required to be added to the annual TSPF budget to accommodate an independent chair.

Table 5.2A. Estimated costs of contracting an independent TSPMAC chair.

Description	Total cost (3 meetings/yr)	Cost per meeting
Travel Allowance - Domestic	1,278	426
Air Fares - Domestic	2,100	700
Misc. Meeting Expenses (sitting fees etc.)	5,148	1,716
Total annual cost	\$ 8,526	\$ 2,842

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Hiring an independent chair would result in additional costs to industry which would be recovered through the levy base.