

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE AUSTRALIA, HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, WWF-AUSTRALIA HEAD OFFICE, LEVEL 1, 1 SMAIL STREET UTIMO, ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2015 AT 6:15PM.

PRESENT	IN ATTENDANCE	APOLOGIES	PROXIES
Renee Boundy	Mark Anscombe	Michael Berwick	Brian Wills-Johnson
Greg Bourne	Adam Bosnjakovic	Peter bridgman	
Michael Chilcott	Aaron Canning	Will Burrell	
Prof. Chris Dickman	Kim Dixon	Peter Cosier	
Kate Dowling	Chintan Dhungel	Dr Guy Fitzhardinge	
Stephen Gottlieb	Adrian Enright	Douglas Gimesy	
Paul Harris	Phil Freeman	Ronnie Harding	
Peter Kingston	Karen Firestone	Robert Hill	
Robert Kok	Nick Heath	Prof. Lesley Hughes	
John Mooney	Kaz Hing	Anthony Hyde	
Rob Purves	Cristel Lee Leed	David Ireland	
Peter Thomas	Dr Gilly Llewellyn	Jason Kimberly	
Maree Thomas	James Meharg	Jamie Pittock	
Brent Wallace	Greg Millar	Derek Robertson	
Martijn Wilder	Paul Molloy	Ted Rowley	
Dr Dedee Woodside	Ron Newton	Alan Sweeney	
Susan Young	Jenny O'Donnell	Ivan Wheen	
	Dermot O'Gorman	Brian Wills-Johnson	
	Karla Pardo		
	Aravinda		
	Pilanawithana		
	Stewart Walters		

OPENING

Mr Rob Purves, President of WWF-Australia welcomed all to the 37th AGM of WWF-A and thanked all those present. Mr Purves introduced the Board of Directors, noting apologies, Executive team and special guests. The President formally opened the meeting stating a quorum was present and noted the apologies for the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on November 26th, 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved:	Mr Michael Chilcott	
Seconded:	Mr Martijn Wilder	Resolution carried

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Mr Purves addressed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting, and gave an update on the years' events including financials, operating highlights, state of the environment, future plans and Board issues.

Mr Purves noted the organisation had seen a 6% decline due to lower level of donations, gifts and bequest income. Despite the poor year in terms of income, since the beginning of the current strategic plan, there had been a 60% growth in income. The Board decided to reduce the level of reserves to increase spend in conservation, which helped maintain momentum of all programs. It was important to note that WWF's reserves, as of June 30th, 2015, were within the recommended level from WWF-International. The resultant \$2.5mil deficit is viewed as a one-off event and with current projections forecast to break even for the current year.

Mr Purves gave an update on e-panda initiative, which was introduced at the 2014 AGM, as a tool to engage with wider audiences on a larger scale. Mr Purves noted WWF was well on the way to a target of one million sign-ups by the end of 2017. In addition to harnessing technology to help WWF reach new audiences, it is expected to also help reach new financial supporters and change the way we raise funds. The petition for the Great Barrier Reef demonstrated the effectiveness of online communities - half a million people signed the petition online which was put to the World Heritage Committee in support for the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr Purves noted the core focus areas of Market Transformation, The Great Barrier Reef, Southwest Australia, Climate Change and Places you Love, continued throughout the year along with two regional priorities, Heart of Borneo, and Coral Triangle & Southwest Pacific. Mr Purves noted further highlights would be conveyed in the CEO's address.

Mr Purves noted WWF had become the largest environmental NGO in revenue terms over the span of the current strategic plan, which was due to end in 2016. Mr Purves emphasised the need to continue to grow and diversify and focus on conservation priorities to continue the organisations reputation for on-ground conservation, advocacy, campaigning, product certification and corporate partnering to achieve great conservation impact.

Mr Purves reflected on a challenging year in the environment space and WWF's contribution to the debate, stating WWF had held its ground and argued its case based on science. The Global network had been leveraged, resulting in global support for campaigns such as Fight for the Reef and we have seen a shift in the political mood in the Qld and federal governments.

WWF's role in the Fight for the Reef campaign elevated WWF's reputation with government, business and the wider environment movement and work with corporate partners such as Coles, Blackmores, Kimberly-Clark and Tassal raised the brand recognition within the Australian public to 89%. Mr Purves stated, this was a great base on which to launch the next five year plan.

Mr Purves announced Professor Chris Dickman had joined the board of Directors, noting he had been a governor of WWF since 1996. Mr Purves also thanked and acknowledged Dr Dedee Woodside and Paul Harris, who would retire as Directors.

To conclude, Mr Purves thanked all staff, governors and directors for their support of WWF and their contributions to the new strategic plan. Mr Purves also thanked Dermot O'Gorman, CEO, for his tireless efforts for both WWF-Australia and the global network.

Mr Purves called upon Dr Dedee Woodside and Paul Harris and presented gifts of thanks.

ITEM 4 – CEO ADDRESS

Mr Dermot O'Gorman welcomed the Governors, special guests and staff attending the AGM. Mr O'Gorman noted this was an exciting time to be working in conservation despite the challenges

faced this year. It was noted that over the past three years, WWF and its supporters had shown determination and stood by their values.

Mr O’Gorman reflected on the years’ achievements including the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decision to place the Australian Government on probation over the state of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and the ban on dredge spoil dumping in the world heritage area including the GBR marine park

Mr O’Gorman relayed the constant challenges to environmental laws over past two years, which WWF and an alliance of environmental organisations and civil society had banded together to stop four attempts at significantly downgrading Australia’s environmental protections.

Mr O’Gorman noted significant conservation highlights including the success of the partnership with Australia’s largest Salmon producer, Tassal, which had resulted in more than 50% of Australia’s farmed salmon being ASC certified. A 70% increase in black-flanked wallaby’s at Nangeen Hill, and the Climate roundtable agreement to stay below 2degrees of global warming, and pledging to take urgent action on climate now were also noted.

Mr O’Gorman noted that E-panda, WWF’s digital transformation, was well on track as stated by Mr Purves and investment in software to allow WWF to track supporter journeys would be the next phase in this initiative.

Mr O’Gorman noted WWF was currently developing a new five-year strategy and thanked all Governors for their contributions to date. He explained that the new plan would need to reflect the changes in the outside world; it would need to build on our heritage, and also reflect new and exciting elements.

Mr O’Gorman recognised that now was the best time to work on environment and sustainable development issues and it would be a perfect time to reskill and reinvent in order to face the future challenges. WWF played a key role in building alliances and partnerships with other organisations and business’ over the last four years and would continue to develop this role in order to continue a legacy of conservation impact at scale.

Mr O’Gorman highlighted key programs under development for the new strategic plan:

Newsroom – a move to a multimedia organisation that would engage supporters in a new way via broadcast stories on projects, staff and other environmental news.

Superstar Species – building our on-ground work to protect species and habitats in Australia and the region. The ‘Superstar Species’ program would aim to reverse and protect key species and habitats.

Sustainable Food – this program would build on WWF’s work on commodities and contribute to the challenge of feeding 9 billion people over the next 50 years. The broader food lens would engage with supporters in their homes and also engage producers and continue work with supply chains.

Climate Change – the program will continue with some policy aspects but the main focus will be on energy technologies (batteries) and helping to remove barriers that will enable the development of future technologies.

Mr O’Gorman encouraged Governors to continue their support and involvement in the strategy and thanked all for their help so far. Mr O’Gorman thanked the WWF staff and conveyed his pride in the team. Mr O’Gorman also thanked Rob Purves and the Board for their support, insights and guidance and made special mention of Paul Harris and Dedee Woodside in their last year on the Board. Lastly, Mr O’Gorman thanked WWF’s supporters for their loyalty and continued support and expressed excitement in working together again in 2016 and beyond.

ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DIRECTORS REPORT BALANCE SHEET

Mr Stephen Gottlieb, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee presented the Director’s report and financial statements for the year ended, June 30, 2015. Mr Gottlieb noted a challenging year with lower growth of Face to Face and regular giving. As discussed previously, it was noted the deficit of \$2.5mil. was planned and made possible with a healthy level of reserve.

Mr Gottlieb presented historical and projected income split between supporter and other sources and key fundraising channels which showed the drivers of the lower total income, slowing growth in supporter income and difference in planned and actual Government funding. Mr Gottlieb noted key factors in slowing growth in supporter income and how WWF planned to overcome the challenges with diversification of income streams.

Mr Gottlieb noted projections for 2016, taking into account, slowed growth in Face to Face and explained the budget was planned to be flat in order to maintain reserves.

Mr Gottlieb expressed thanks to Mr Stewart Walters, CFO and the finance team for their support and assistance in monitoring WWF-Australia’s financial position.

Mr Gottlieb acknowledged Shannon Maher of PriceWaterhouseCoopers for their work as WWF’s auditors and thanked Ross Knowles and Trevor Thomas of Ethinvest for the careful management of WWF’s investments.

The audited financial report from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 was adopted by the meeting.

Moved:	Mr Stephen Gottlieb	
Seconded:	Mr Brent Wallace	Resolution carried

Mr Gottlieb declared the resolution carried.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT OF THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE AUSTRALIA

Mr James Meharg presented the Sustainability report for FY15; the 4th year of the 5-year plan. Mr Meharg updated on four key areas; air-travel emissions, energy consumption, paper use and waste recycling.

2016 saw a continued trend of reduced per capita flight emissions.

Mr Meharg stated that the first year of WWF-A’s Air-Travel Emissions Reduction Initiative (AERI) was complete, and the Sustainability team were please to reward individuals and teams who had achieved the highest reductions.

Mr Meharg noted reductions across energy consumption, citing 13% reduction in comparable energy usage, reduction in per capita paper usage as well as improvements in waste recycling. Mr Meharg also noted that WWF-A’s Sydney office had been awarded 5 Star Green Star rating by the Green Building Council of Australia and 6 Star NABERS energy rating, the highest under the NABERS scheme and indicated that WWF was on a good trajectory to reach 2016 targets.

Other initiatives to encourage staff to reduce waste included encouragement of the use of reusable

coffee cups.

Mr Meharg noted improved reporting fixtures would continue to help identify further opportunities in the future.

Mr Meharg concluded by thanking Kim Dixon, Dermot O’Gorman and the Board for the ongoing support of the committee and their goal of reducing WWF’s environmental footprint.

ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Purves reported that in accordance with Article 35 of the Constitution of WWF-Australia the following members of the Board of Directors would retire, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:

NAME	MOVED	SECONDED
Prof. Chris Dickman	Rob Purves	Martijn Wilder
Martijn Wilder	Rob Purves	Greg Bourne
Brent Wallace	Rob Purves	Renee Boundy

The President declared the motion passed for all of the above elected candidates.

ITEM 8 – ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The President reported that at the end of the Board meeting preceding the AGM the following appointments were re-confirmed.

President: Mr Rob Purves
Deputy President: N/A
Honorary Secretary: Ms Renee Boundy
Honorary Treasurer: Mr Stephen Gottlieb

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed

CLOSE

Mr Purves thanked all for attending WWF-A’s 37th AGM and before closing the meeting, introduced Mr Nick Heath, for a special presentation to follow, on the Fight for the Reef Campaign.

Signed as a true and correct record:
Mr Rob Purves, AM
President, WWF-Australia
Date 23/11/2016

