

## THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTION

**Chairman's Newsletter No. 2**

**16 February 2006**

Greetings

This Newsletter No. 2 is being distributed to WAMSI Governors, Alternates and Administration, and also to a number of other people closely associated with WAMSI. Please feel free to distribute it to anyone who may be interested in the development of WAMSI.

### *First meeting of the interim Governing Board*

The first meeting of the interim Governing Board will be held on Tuesday 21 March 2006. At that meeting, members of the Board will have a report on progress on the draft Joint Venture Agreement, the draft Centre Agent Agreement and the draft Business Plan. It is important that a path to finalisation of the Agreements and the Plan be defined so that WAMSI is in a position to receive its first grant from the WA Government. My discussions with the Office of Science and Innovation indicate that the Office would like to be in a position to provide its first grant to WAMSI before 30 June 2006.

The interim Governing Board will need to consider ways and means of ensuring that all interim Governors are kept informed about the matters coming before the WAMSI Board and the decisions taken.

### *Members of the interim Governing Board*

Members of the interim Governing Board are Greg Ayers, Keiran McNamara, Peter Murphy, Ian Poiner, Alistar Robertson, Peter Rogers, Charles Thorn and myself

### *Appointment of a Chief Executive Officer*

The Selection Committee interviewed a short list of applicants for the position of CEO of WAMSI on Friday 6 January 2006. The Selection Committee met again on 31 January 2006, and I expect that an offer will be made to the preferred applicant before the end of February. As soon as appropriate protocols have been given attention in relation to all applicants, I will advise interim Governors of the name of the preferred applicant.

### *Progress on the Agreements and Business Plan*

The meeting of interim Governors held on 25 November 2005 agreed that comments on the most recent version of the draft Joint Venture Agreement and the draft Centre Agent Agreement, including inputs by legal counsel, would be provided to the Project Officer by 28 February 2006.

The interim Governing Board will receive a report on the draft Agreements at its meeting on 21 March 2006.

A draft of the Business Plan has been forwarded to the Office of Science and Innovation to seek its advice as to whether the format and detail of the Business Plan is of a nature suitable for inclusion as an attachment to the Agreement between the Government and WAMSI. I have explained to the Office the importance of having all of the Agreements given attention in parallel so that they can be signed at the earliest possible date.

#### *Workshop on the Ningaloo Research Program*

I attended each day of the Ningaloo Research Program workshop held from Monday 6 to Friday 10 February 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the six main research areas comprising the Ningaloo Research Program. These six are (i) bio-physical inventories, (ii) human usage inventories, (iii) ecosystem impacts of human usage, (iv) key ecological processes, (v) management targets, indicators and monitoring protocols and (vi) integration for management.

The workshops were attended by researchers and managers from CSIRO, AIMS, the universities and government departments. I was impressed by the high degree of collaborative association by the participants. All participants were attuned to the need to ensure that the array of research projects had clear pathways to delivering outcomes of economic, social and environmental benefits to the State. This requires an on-going linkage between the researchers and the managers.

#### *Progress on accommodation*

The WAMSI Headquarters will be located on the ground floor of the Botany/Biology Building at the University of Western Australia campus in Nedlands. The floor plans and specifications for the office space have been finalized and building will commence in April 2006, with a completion date of mid June 2006. WAMSI will have four individual offices, storage space, a meeting room (shared with AIMS) equipped with video conferencing facilities, a small kitchen and a reception area. Specifications and floor plans are available from the Project Officer for any members interested in viewing them.

#### *Chairman away late April and May*

There is never a 'good' time to be away. I have a long standing commitment to be away from Perth (overseas) from 24 April to 31 May 2006. I am sure that others can cover this time for me as chairman.

Kind regards

Bernard Bowen  
(Chairman)