

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTION

Chairman's Newsletter No. 3

12 April 2006

Greetings

This Newsletter No. 3 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.

Appointment of a CEO for WAMSI

Dr Steve Blake has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of WAMSI. He will take up his appointment on Monday 8 May 2006.

Steve has a first class honours degree in Science from the University of Edinburgh (1987) and a PhD from James Cook University (1993). His thesis was titled "*Processes Controlling Sediment and Nutrient Concentrations in the Whitsunday Island Area: Implications for Fringing Reef Communities.*" After finishing his PhD, Steve was awarded an ARC Post Doctoral Fellowship tenable at the Institute of Advanced Studies, ANU, where he worked on geochemical and stable isotopic tracers of natural and anthropogenic sources of nutrients and metals within the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.

Steve is currently the Executive Director of the Australia New Zealand Spatial Information Council.

First meeting of the interim Governing Board

The first meeting of the interim Governing Board was held on Tuesday 21 March 2006. It is important that the Governors be kept informed about the matters discussed at the Board Meetings, and this will be on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Board. In the meantime I am providing below information about the more important items discussed at the 21 March meeting:

- The draft Business Plan had been forwarded to the Office of Science and Innovation to seek advice as to whether it was of a nature suitable for attaching to the Funding Agreement. WAMSI has been requested to provide additional information in the Business Plan on a small number of aspects, including finalising the budget.
- The Budget for the Business Plan has been revised so that some funds are available for redistribution at a later date, either on merit within the Nodes or to co-invest in new opportunities. This resulted in a reduced notional budget for Nodes 1, 2 and 4.
- The Board was informed that a workshop had been held to discuss the Ningaloo Research Program (Node 3). Workshops will be held to develop the science plans for Nodes 1, 2 and 4. The workshops for Nodes 1 and 2 will be held shortly and the workshop for Node 4 later in the year. The Workshop Coordinator for Nodes 1 and 2 is Dr Greg Ayers and for Node 4 the Coordinator is Dr Peter Rogers. The Ningaloo Research Program is currently

with the Office of Science and Innovation but it will become a Node of WAMSI.

- Progress on the development of the four agreements was discussed. These are the Joint Venture Agreement, the Centre Agent Agreement, the State Government Funding Agreement and the Project Agreement. The Board was informed that a meeting had been arranged for 28 March 2006 when legal counsels from a number of the Parties would meet to discuss the next phase of developing the Agreements.

Meetings

Interim Governing Board

The next meeting of the interim Governing Board will be held on Wednesday 7 June 2006 in the Patterson Conference Room at the University of Western Australia. The Western Australian Minister for Science and Innovation, the Hon Francis Logan MLA, is planning to meet with the Board on that day.

Workshop

The workshop to progress the development of the science plans for Nodes 1 and 2 will be held in May 2006.

Legal counsels

A meeting of the legal counsels from a number of the Parties was held on 28 March 2006. The WAMSI Acting Director, Dr John Keesing, and the Project Officer, Ms Shelley McAlpine attended. Also, I attended for the opening session to provide an overview of matters which the Board had discussed relevant to the legal counsel meeting.

The meeting was of considerable benefit and new versions of the Joint Venture Agreement, the Centre Agent Agreement and the Project Agreement will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the interim Governing Board.

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 alterations have commenced, with a completion date planned for mid June 2006. WAMSI will have four individual offices, storage space, a meeting room (shared with AIMS) equipped with video conferencing facilities, a shared small kitchen and reception area.

Chairman away late April and May

As advised in the Chairman's Newsletter No. 2, I will be away from Perth (overseas) from 24 April to 31 May 2006. During this time Steve Blake will take up the position of Chief Executive officer of WAMSI and settle into his new duties.

Kind regards

Bernard Bowen
(Chairman)