

## Lightning Ridge Area Opal Reserve

### SUMMARY

Board meeting held on Monday, 13 March 2023

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The Handover process and Crown Lands induction prior to the meeting of the new Board was noted.

#### Election of Office Bearers

Nominations for the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary were provided noting only Board members could be appointed to the roles. It was noted Victoria Lugovoy would continue to provide admin assistance on the financial work required for the Treasurer.

The Board agreed the following Office Bearers be appointed:

Chair: David Lane  
Treasurer: Damien Waterford  
Secretary: Barbara Moritz

#### Bank Account Signatories

Discussion followed on the processing and approvals with the suggestion the use of batches processing be investigated.

The Board agreed the new authorised bank signatories for the Reserve, with any previous Directors to be removed as signatories.

#### Action Items

The Action Items were discussed noting matters listed on the Agenda for consideration and updates provided.

Public Platform - nil.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

#### **Matters for Decision**

##### Term Deposit Interest Rates

Directors noted and discussed the information provided, including:

- The interest rates, noting increases were occurring with consideration to be given to varying terms and amounts.
- Term Deposit to be lodged with a bank under the Federal Government Insurance Scheme.

The Board resolved the Treasurer prepare a report and proposal on term deposit options for consideration at the next Board meeting.

#### Increase Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Application

Directors noted and discussed the information provided. The Reserve Manager commented at least \$200k pa was required to combat the problem noting the bug was not performing as expected although the prolonged wet weather had impacted the effectiveness of control measures. \$2.6M in funding from the NSW Government had been announced however no information had been provided on the process or operation of the allocations and the implications for the Reserve. It was suggested a direct approach be made to the State Government and Department of Environment with a fully costed proposal and solution to tackle the problem. The Chair commented previous approaches had not been successful and the Reserve was not the authority to address the Hudson Pear problem.

Drone mapping information would assist the process with a strategy to undertake large scale spraying of roadsides, boundaries and heavy infestation areas as well as releasing the bug. The work by the Reserve Manager on the Hudson Pear problem was acknowledged and efforts should continue on stakeholder engagement and lobbying the Government to understand the significant amount of funds required to address the issue.

It was suggested a knowledgeable expert be engaged to prepare a plan to eradicate the Hudson Pear with the RM to prepare a scope and obtain quotes. Block areas to target could be identified and hourly rates for the work requested with three quotes to be obtained from experts including one from Castlereagh Macquarie.

Discussion followed on increasing the application amount to CRIF which was justifiable together with a co-contribution from the Reserve. Applications were not open yet with the decision on the CRIF amount held over to the next Board meeting.

The Board resolved a scope of work be prepared for a knowledgeable expert to be engaged to prepare a plan for the eradication of Hudson Pear on the Reserve.

#### Reserve Manager to take extended Paternal leave

Directors discussed the information provided with the Board agreeing to accept the terms of the paternal leave for the Reserve Manager.

#### Reserve Manager absence replaced with short -term contract

Directors discussed at length the information provided and proposed options outlined. The Reserve Manager advised he would be able to provide a handover and short term assistance.

The Board confirmed an offer was to be prepared for Victoria Lugovoy to undertake the role of Reserve Manager on a part-time basis for 12 months whilst the current Reserve Manager was on paternal leave.

#### Fencing – Muttabun

Directors noted the information circulated on the damage caused to fencing from the recent bushfire. No pricing had yet been obtained however the cost should not be excessive with only new wiring required. Due to livestock being on the property urgent action was required.

The Board accepted the Reserve Manager was able to approve expenditure under \$5K in accordance with the delegation of authority. Should the fencing costs exceed \$5K a circular resolution would be forwarded to all Directors.

DPIE Invite for use of Thermal Mapping for Hudson Pear

Directors discussed the information provided with the suggestion access to the GIS files created should be provided free of charge to the Reserve.

Directors resolved to accept the use of the mapping survey available through the Department of Environment and Planning NSW.

The next Board meeting date was yet to be determined, with a list of options for 2023 Board meeting dates to be circulated.