



2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Friday 27 November, from 1pm
Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome – DFA Chairman Mark King

Present: M King, T Martin, S Bennett, M Bennett, J Treeby, D Gardner, M Scalzo, C Greenwood, L Lory, P Andronesco, J Hunt, J Eagle, A Johnstone, L Stacey, C Ayling, D Swain, V Tripp, L Stacey
Staff: A Mansell, L Roden, S Putland, R Rohrlach

Apologies: G Leyden

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Annual General Meeting held 31 October 2019

Board recommendation:

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 31 October 2019 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

Moved: T Martin Seconded: J Treeby Carried

3. Board Report 2019/20

Presented by DFA Chairman Mark King

M Bennett asked about the DFA Members Wage Sheet and wage rates under the Horticulture Award. CEO provided information on the availability of the wages sheet for members via the website, and also that this information is more generally available via the Fair Work Ombudsman website, which DFA refers any enquiries about wages to this site.

J Hunt asked about piece rate agreements. Chair provided information that DFA have piece rate templates available for members which can also be found on the members part of the website.

L Lory asked about Goulburn InterValley Trade. Deputy Chair provided information that at this stage there has been no further updates on the Goulburn IVT.

Board recommendation:

That the Board Report for 2019/20 be adopted.

Moved: D Swain Seconded: J Hunt Carried

4. **Election of Producer Board Members – CEO Anne Mansell**

The terms of three current producer members (Mark King, Anthony (Tony) Martin, Stephen Bennett) will expire at the AGM, with all being eligible to re-nominate.

Note, Section 28 of the Constitution states as follows:

(2) Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies for any category of membership of the Board, the AGM will conduct a secret ballot on a simple majority basis. In the event of two or more candidates for a vacancy receiving the same number of votes, the election shall be decided by lot.

(3) Where there are insufficient nominations to fill all the vacancies on the Board, all candidates as at the close of nominations shall be appointed and the Board may appoint a member(s) to fill any remaining vacancy.

Three producer positions were vacant and Dried Fruits Australia received nominations from:

Mark King, Anthony (Tony) Martin, Stephen Bennett

All nominations were received in accordance with the constitution of Dried Fruits Australia.

5. **Annual Financial Statements 2019/20– for Dried Fruits Australia Inc – CEO Anne Mansell**

J Hunt asked what percent of growers are members to DFA? CEO advised that 80% of growers remain members of the organisation.

A Johnstone asked if the tiered membership levy caused the memberships to drop back? CEO advised that it did not appear at this stage that it had resulted in a drop in memberships. Industry stats indicate a drop in growers across the industry owing to sales of properties.

S Bennett asked if all processors collect levies? CEO advised that only Sunbeam collect levies direct from growers. DFA send out letters requesting tonnages from other growers.

Chair provided an update that unfortunately the audited financials for the Trusts were not yet complete owing to a number of unforeseen issues and could not be provided for general information.

J Hunt advised he would refrain from voting as the audited financial Statements did not include the Trusts Financials.

Board recommendation:

That the audited Annual Financial Statements of Dried Fruits Australia Inc. for the 12 months period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be received and adopted.

Moved: A Johnstone Seconded: C Greenwood

Carried

6. **Appointment of Independent Auditor – CEO Anne Mansell**

Board recommendation:

That Registered Company Auditor Kellie Nulty be appointed as the independent auditor for 2020/21.

Moved: T Martin Seconded: S Bennett

Carried

7. Dried Fruits Australia Membership Fees for 2020/21 – Chairman Mark King

Board recommendation – producers:

That the tiered producer membership fee be endorsed for season 2020/21:

- *\$9.00 per tonne (plus GST) on all dried vine fruit deliveries, up to a maximum of 100 tonnes*
- *\$6 per tonne (plus GST) on all dried vine fruit deliveries, from 101 tonnes up to a maximum of 250 tonnes*
- *\$4 per tonne (plus GST) on all dried vine fruit deliveries, from 251 tonnes up to a maximum of 500 tonnes*
- *\$3 per tonne (plus GST) on all dried vine fruit deliveries, from 501 tonnes and above, capped at \$5,000.*

Moved: A Johnstone Seconded: J Treeby

Carried

Board recommendation – associate members

That associate membership fee of \$100 (plus GST) be endorsed for 2020/21.

Moved: A Johnstone Seconded: T Martin

Carried

Board recommendation – processor/marketers

That the processor/marketer membership fee of \$4.00/tonne (plus GST) on all dried vine fruit deliveries be endorsed for season 2020/21.

Moved: A Johnstone Seconded: J Treeby

Carried

8. Statutory Research & Marketing Levies on 2021 crop (levies administered by Horticulture Innovation Australia)

Board recommendation – research levy

That an unchanged research levy of \$11.00 per tonne on all dried vine fruit deliveries in 2021 be endorsed.

Board recommendation – marketing levy

That an unchanged marketing levy of \$7.00 per tonne on all dried vine fruit deliveries in 2021 be endorsed.

Board recommendation – biosecurity levy

That the commencement of \$1.00 per tonne for newly introduced biosecurity levy on all dried vine fruit deliveries in 2021 from 1 January be endorsed.

Moved: S Bennett Seconded: D Swain

That all Research & Marketing Levies as presented be approved

Carried

9. Other business

- a. **Australian Dried Vine Fruits Trust (ADVFT) Update – for members information**
- b. **Dried Fruits Trust (DFT) Update – for members information**

It was requested by members that the Audited Trust Financials be sent out to members once they are completed. Chair indicated he would make the request to the Trust Boards when they had their next meetings but didn't believe this would be an issue.

Discussion on Trusts included the following:

- J Hunt asked regarding the process of seeking requests for funding for promotional activities. Chair advised to write a letter to the ADVFT and any request would be considered
- M Bennett asked regarding the relationship between the Trusts and DFA and asked if this could be provided in written form. Chair explained the way in which the Trusts came into being post deregulation of the industry and how the application system to the Trusts worked. DFA puts in applications for funding to the Trusts for consideration. Not all are approved.
- M Bennett provided information on the way in which the branches, DFT and overall industry have contributed funding for the Mechanised Winter Pruning project and looked forward to the industry wide distribution of information on this.

Chairman thanked CEO, Staff and Board for making things continue to happen during this very challenging year.

Mark on behalf of the Board and Staff wished all Growers a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2021.

10. Close of meeting

Mark thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1.58pm.