



Tuesday 1 November 2011 | Published by Perth Region NRM

## Special Update

Some significant changes have occurred at Perth Region NRM since our last update. The Board and Chair would like to provide this opportunity for investors, partners and stakeholders to get a clearer insight into recent changes and decisions within Perth Region NRM and what is planned for the near future.

---

## Moving to a Skills-Based Board

On the 5th October 2011, the Board of Perth Region NRM (PRNRM) met to discuss proposals from the governance consults who had been engaged to provide advice on how PRNRM might transition to implement a skills based governance model.

After consideration of the proposed model the Board determined the following, that:

- The membership of the Association should be reconstituted to include:

1. Commonwealth, State or Local Government entities with statutory or regulatory capacity for NRM;
  2. Incorporated associations with a demonstrable interest in NRM;
  3. Research or educational institutes that educate or publish material relating to NRM;
- or
4. Businesses that influence NRM, not otherwise represented by eligible industry bodies or incorporated associations.

- There would be a new category of Associate recognised in the constitution, which would allow any individual or organisation to be kept informed of the activities and developments within the Perth Region NRM organisation.

- The new Board of Perth Region NRM should include between seven (7) and nine (9) skills-based directors comprising: Six (6) to eight (8) non-executive Board Directors; and one (1) executive Board Director (the Chief Executive Officer, ex officio).

[Special Update](#)

[Moving to a Skills-Based Board](#)

[Next Steps](#)

[Farewell and Thankyou to the Outgoing Chief Executive Officer](#)

[Forensic Investigation](#)

[Caring for our Country Funding Welcomed for 2012](#)

- New board directors would be selected using a transparent and defensible process that would assess nominations for directorships against fourteen knowledge and skills criteria that represent the extent of expertise required of the board. The aim over time is to see a balanced mix of skills and experiences that will support Perth Region NRM deliver its strategic governance objectives. The Board members would have 3 year tenures, with the exception of shorter tenures for some members appointed through the transitional arrangements, with a maximum tenure of 9 consecutive years.

- The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer would be elected from within the Board.

- That, recognised within the constitution, four Standing Committees, comprising of a NRM Committee, a Nominations Committee (which would have an independent chair), a Finance Committee and an Audit Committee, will be established.

**collaboration**  
alignment **facilitation**  
**access** contact  
brokering environmental change  
**outcome focused**  
**streamline**

---

## Next Steps: Transitional Arrangements, Call for New Membership, and Call for Nominations for Board Director Positions

The current Perth NRM Board is currently considering what transitional arrangements will need to be put in place to ensure that it continues to meet its obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 1987.

Once these arrangements are determined, the current Board aims to consider the new constitution at its AGM in December, and seek ratification of the constitution by the Commissioner for Fair Trading.

Following this, Perth NRM will be:

- Seeking new members for the Association – please watch your mailbox and/or email inbox for an invitation to join;
- Calling for nominations for new Board Directors – it is hoped that these new Board Members will be appointed early in 2012.

For further information on any of the above, please feel free to contact our Acting CEO, Damien Hills at [ceo@perthregionnrm.com](mailto:ceo@perthregionnrm.com).

---

## Farewell and Thankyou to the Outgoing Chief Executive Officer

After almost 8 years of steadfast service, Ms Linda Soteriou has made the decision to resign as CEO of Perth Region NRM.

The Board would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Soteriou for her passion and dedication over the years to both Perth Region NRM and to the Regional NRM movement more broadly. The Board wishes Ms Soteriou all the best for her future endeavours.

While the current Board is undergoing its transitional arrangements it has appointed Mr Damien Hills as Acting CEO, with the intent of filling the new Executive Director level CEO position as soon as possible. Amongst other former positions, Mr Hills was the General Manager of the South West Catchments Council for a number of years, and has agreed to assist in guiding the organisation through its transition period.

---

# Forensic Investigation

While the Board has been satisfied with the general progress of the organisation's responses to several recent corporate governance and review processes, it has made the decision that a small number of outstanding issues require further investigation.

The Board is therefore in the process of appointing external forensic consultants to investigate these matters more closely, with a report back to the new Board as soon as possible.

While this investigation may be perceived by some as coming at a difficult time, during this period of transition and renewal, the Board is of the strong belief that it still has obligations to investors, partners and the wider community to operate in an environment of transparency and accountability. As such it has an obligation to investigate any serious and reasonable allegations with regard to misconduct or inappropriate practices.

---

## Caring for our Country Funding Welcomed for 2012

The Australian Government has approved funding for the 2012 year under its national Caring for our Country program. This funding allows Perth Region NRM to continue its vital programs including:

- Managing Biodiversity in the Perth Region
- Noongar Ecological Knowledge and Engagement
- Coastcare
- Implementation of the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement.

Perth Region NRM is on target in delivering all its milestones for the Caring for our Country programs and projects. We plan to have a more extensive update on some of the great progress being made over the next several issues of our regular Perth Region NRM Update.

---

Perth Region NRM is supported by



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



**Perth Region NRM Inc:** 80 Great Northern Highway (Corner Bishop Road), MiddleSwan WA 6056  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 2206, Midland WA 6936

[www.perthregionnrm.com](http://www.perthregionnrm.com) | [enquiries@perthregionnrm.com](mailto:enquiries@perthregionnrm.com)

ph. (08) 9374 3333