

My report to members provides an overview of key issues discussed and decisions made at:

- ▶ the Council Strategy Day held on 5 February 2016; and
- ▶ the Council meeting held on 8 March 2016.

Your feedback on this report is both welcome and encouraged - actuaries@actuaries.asn.au.



Lindsay Smartt

President

Strategic Plan 2015-17

At Council's strategy day we agreed that the Plan was essentially in shape for 2016-17. Some of the decisions taken were:

- given the potential for change to the pre-qualification education system, the Education Strategy Group (chaired by Barry Rafe) will report back to the June Council meeting;
- to look further ahead, a scenario planning group led by Andrew Brown will examine the longer term issues and risks that face the profession in Australia, and world-wide; and
- the current [vision statement](#) is aligned with the Plan but will be revisited in 2017.

The full [Plan](#) has been adjusted to take account of decisions taken at the Council strategy day. The Plan remains substantially on target.

New councillor

Bill Konstantinidis was appointed to Council in January 2016 to fill a casual vacancy.



Learning

The updated university accreditation and exemption policies were approved and an interim process for the re-accreditation of universities was approved for 2016/2017. The Education Council Committee is working on an implementation plan for the introduction of the new draft International Actuarial Association syllabus - this will affect Parts I and II of the Institute's education program from 2018/2019.

The Institute's finances

The Institute remains in a strong financial position. In 2015 there was a \$2k underspend on the budgeted deficit of \$378k for the year. The Institute's net assets of \$4.4m at 31 December 2015 exceeded target reserves by \$1.0m.

Following receipt of the auditor's report Council resolved to adopt the Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2015.

For the previously approved 2016 budget, Council approved additional capital expenditure of \$160k for the CPD program, to enable achievement of the objectives of our Strategic Plan.

Green paper on housing

The Institute released its Green Paper "Unlocking Housing Wealth – options to meet retirement needs" on Monday 14 March. This paper provides options for facilitating retirees' access to wealth contained within their homes, should they wish to do so. Council noted the substantial work done by the housing working group and HQ in preparing the paper.



AGM - changes to the Constitution

Council agreed to proposed changes to the Constitution for consideration by members at the 27 April AGM. This follows recommendations made by the Governance Review Taskforce and member feedback. One additional proposal (Council meeting proxies) has been added.

I encourage you to come along to the AGM to have your say on the Institute's governance, and to hear an update on the implementation of the Institute's Strategic Plan 2015-17.

Review of operational governance of the Institute

Council was briefed on the upcoming operational review of the Institute by CEO David Bell. The focus will be on policies (are there too many and is their coverage adequate?), financial and other delegations by Council, and how best to support the work of the many committees, working groups and taskforces which do such vital work for the Institute. David will provide more information to members soon. Council expects to receive a report on this wide-ranging review for consideration in December.

Board review of Council

Council received a preliminary briefing from a consultant who performed a board review of Council in February. The aim of the review is to ensure Council is operating as effectively as possible. The review also helps inform the operational governance review noted above.

LIWMPC and Cross Practice Committee reports

Life Insurance & Wealth Management Practice Committee Convenor Bozena Hinton, briefed Council on the Committee's activities to support life insurance and wealth management actuaries through education, CPD, professional regulation and guidance, public policy and research activities. The most recent edition of the Committee's newsletter can be viewed [here](#). Bozena also updated Council on the work of the Cross-Practice Committee.

Actuary of the Year Award

Council approved the recommendation of the Nominations Council Committee to change some aspects of the of the selection criteria for the Award. In particular it was felt that the successful person should have the capacity to promote the profession under the banner of the prestigious Actuary of the Year Award. Full details will be published soon.

Acknowledgment of Country

Council approved the President to give an 'Acknowledgment of Country' at major events held by the Institute. The view is that doing so is a respectful and appropriate acknowledgement of our nation's heritage, and reflects a growing modern practice.

Volunteer appointments

Council confirmed the appointment of David Pellarini as a member of the HR & Remuneration Council Committee. David replaces Andrew Boal on the Committee, who has served since December 2012 – thank you Andrew.

Council's next meeting will be held on 7 June 2016.

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