



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CIGRE Australia Ltd**

## **MINUTES (DRAFT)**

**Thursday 28th November 2023**

**Location: Ausgrid, Level 15, 24-28 Campbell St, Haymarket and by Webinar**

### **1. Welcome and Opening**

The Chair, Dr Sean McGoldrick, opened the meeting at 10:00am AEDT and welcomed all members present, including those online.

An Acknowledgement of Country was given by the Chair.

The Chair reminded all members of the need to comply with Trade Practices obligations and CIGRE Australia's strong commitment to compliance with the Competition and Consumer Act. Members were reminded not to discuss anything that affects electricity pricing or competition in the electricity market.

### **2. Meeting Arrangements**

The Chair asked the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to advise of any apologies received. The CEO read the apologies received and further advised that the meeting was quorate. The list of attendees, apologies and those participating in the meeting online is provided in the Attachment.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were approved.

The Chair asked whether any members wished to pay respects to any members who had passed away. No remembrances were requested.

### **3. Office Holder Reports**

Five office holder reports were delivered, which are summarised below. Following the reports a number of questions were asked by members.

#### **3.1 Chairman's Report**

Dr McGoldrick delivered his address. The address covered:

- CIGRE Australia's role in the energy transition;
- The celebration of our 70th anniversary during 2023 including a reflection on our history;
- Our solid performance in 2023, our governance and Board performance and the change of CEO from Mr Killen to Mr McIntyre; and

- Key facts and highlights on the successful Cairns Symposium including delegate feedback, indicating 93.6% of the 1377 delegates rating the Symposium as Very Good to Excellent.

### **3.2 Treasurer's Report**

Mr Bones delivered his report for the 2023 Financial Year. Some of the key highlights were:

- Factors contributing to the deficit for FY2023 included higher travel costs (locally and internationally for the Paris Session 2022), 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary costs and the planned transformer workshop not being held. Despite this loss in FY2023, the Treasurer explained the cyclical nature of our surpluses and deficits and that FY2024 would return to a strong surplus due to the successful Cairns Symposium;
- The performance of our investments, including our FIIG managed bond portfolio, and that the Board intends to continue an investment strategy that contains term deposits and bonds but may broaden the strategy to include exposure to equities;
- The FY2024 budget and FY2025 and FY2026 forecasts; and
- The fee increases approved by the Board to apply for 2024, which ranged between 2.6% and 3.0% for the various classes of memberships and Panel fees.

### **3.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Mr McIntyre delivered his report for the 2023 Financial Year. Some of the major points discussed were:

- An overview of the latest CIGRE Strategic Plan (issued in 2023, with a planning horizon to 2023) – highlighting some of its focus areas including membership growth, improving membership diversity and increasing CIGRE's influence with a broader set of stakeholders;
- CIGRE Australia has maintained strong membership growth over the past 12 months, with Australia ranked as the third largest National Committee by mid-2023. Should this ranking be retained through 2023 Australia would be granted automatic membership on the CIGRE Steering Committee which would give us increased leverage and input on CIGRE strategy and priorities;
- The Board will be holding a strategy and planning session in February 2024 and all members were invited to communicate views for the Board to consider; and
- The support of Mr Killen in assisting the CEO to transition into his role was very much appreciated.

### **3.4 Australian Technical Committee Chair's Report**

Ms Klepac spoke to some highlights of the Australian Technical Committee (ATC) over the preceding 12 months:

- An overview of the Cairns Symposium including Symposium themes, Study Committees attending, planning activity, delegate, sponsor and exhibitor statistics, student awards and an acknowledgement for the core team that delivered the Symposium;
- The 2023 ATC Presentation Day;

- Preparations underway for the 2024 Paris Session including key themes, dates for paper submission and review and the potential challenges posed by the temporal proximity to the Olympics and Paralympics; and
- The hand-over of the role of Convenor of six Australian Panel chairs.

### 3.5 NGN Report

Mr Lloyd, also on behalf of outgoing NGN Co-Chair Maddy Binet and acting Co-Chair Ms Natash D'Silva, reported to the meeting:

- 2023 saw strong NGN growth to 307 NGN members, an increase of 32% from 2022. 24% of those members were female;
- An overview of the NGN Australia Committee structure and members;
- Events taken during 2023 including webinars and NGN events at the Cairns Symposium; and
- Focus areas for NGN for 2024 including students and student member conversion, preparation for the selection of the 2024 Paris Session (including selection of the Richard and Moira Bevan Scholarship winners and Paris NGN Showcase nominees) and ongoing webinars and technical tours.

At the conclusion of the various presentations, questions were taken from the floor.

Mr McMullen observed that while the CIGRE Australia history book was an excellent publication, more recognition could have been provided to Mr Syd Tutton who was pivotal to the development of the Australian National Committee, served as the Secretary to the Board for a period of around 20 years, and contributed significantly internationally. The Chairman acknowledged his service to CIGRE Australia and requested that his contribution, and our appreciation of his service, be reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

Mr McMullen asked whether the financial results for the Cairns Symposium had been finalised. Mr Bones advised that we had been finalising the details of the profit share arrangement with Paris Central Office and that our proposal to finalise this had been accepted last week. The profit for the event (for SEAPAC, CIDER and half of the Symposium proceeds) were approximately \$470k, compared to a budgeted amount of \$250k. The meeting acknowledged that result with applause.

Mr Thorpe asked whether Paris Central Office might consider a reduction in fees for Australia given our remoteness and lack of support sought from Paris to run the National Committee. Mr Bones advised that Paris saw the Australian National Committee as strong and was more inclined to support national committees 'in need'.

Mr Thorpe also asked how CIGRE Australia could better tap into international expertise not just local expertise, to avoid self-selected experts dominating local opinion (and noting that those experts already had considerable avenues to articulate their views in Australia) – and improving CIGRE Australia's impact by leveraging our access to international expertise. The Chairman advised this could be a relevant consideration for the Board's planning and strategy session.

Mr Cruickshank asked whether Australia could provide more support for countries in South East Asia and provide stronger leadership in the Region. Similarly, Mr Wheatland asked whether the Asia-Oceania Regional Council (AORC) and Australia's contribution to it should be rejuvenated. Dr McGoldrick indicated that both matters were relevant for consideration



by the Board as part of its strategic planning.

Mr Wheatland asked whether there were issues with Panels becoming too large and whether an approach to manage Panel sizes was required. The comment was noted by ATC Chair Ms Klapac who indicated it would be taken on board for consideration.

Mr Bhangor discussed social license (or example for transmission line development) and the interaction with regulatory bodies and whether CIGRE Australia has a role it could play in this area. Dr McGoldrick replied that this was a challenging space and that the Board would need to monitor related activity and could potentially take a greater role.

Mr Baitch asked whether more focus could be given to presenting a number of in-depth presentations at the ATC Presentation Day and less focus be given to statistics and reports. Mr McGoldrick indicated this could be taken on board.

#### **4. Election of Directors**

The Chief Executive Officer, as Returning Officer of the director elections, declared the election results:

Deputy Chairman - Mr David Bones (uncontested)

Treasurer - Ms Tara-lee Macarthur

Chair of the Australian Technical Committee - Ms Angela Klapac

General Director – Mr Les Brand, Ms Nicola Falcon, Mr Rainer Korte and Mr Edward Wilson

Dr McGoldrick congratulated the successful candidates and noted that it was a very healthy sign that so many nominees came forward to contest leadership positions. The Chairman also noted that Dr Jennifer Crisp was unsuccessful in winning a further term as a general director and thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Board over the preceding two years.

#### **5. Other Business**

The CEO spoke to the recent Board decision to continue with Pilot Partners as auditors for FY2024 and, given the extended period that Pilot Partners had been the auditor, to go to market for a new auditor from FY2025.

#### **6. CIGRE Australia Awards**

Dr McGoldrick acknowledged the contribution of the Panel Convenors who have finished their terms: Mr Tri Tan (A1), Mr Russell Wheatland (B1), Ms Crina Costan (B3), Mr Peter Bishop (B5), Mr Greg Hesse (C2) and Mr Ray Brown (C6). The Chairman noted that CIGRE Australia is highly dependent on the collaboration that occurs through Panels and the significant work involved in convening a Panel and also contributing to the relevant Study Committee.

The Chairman also warmly welcomed the new Panel Convenors: Len Gunn (A1), Rob Bradley (B1), Andreas Laubi (B3), Rob Coggan (B5), Tjaart Van Der Walt (C2) and Jenny Gannon (C6).



The Chairman advised the meeting that the Board had approved a Best Paper Award at future SEAPACs to be given in the name of member Mr Rodney Hughes and the award of Honorary Membership of CIGRE Australia to Mr Hughes.

The Chairman read to the meeting a history of Mr Hughes involvement including his contribution to B5 Panel for over 38 years, his initiative to create SEAPAC and to be a sole or co-organiser of the event eight times, and his initiative in creating the KMS for adoption in Australia and CIGRE internationally. Mr Hughes received the Technical Council Award in 2011 and later, in 2020, was recognised as a Distinguished Member.

Unfortunately, Mr Hughes was unable to be present at the meeting today. The meeting showed their respect for Rod and their appreciation for him on being granted Honorary Membership by an extended ovation.

## **7. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:33am AEDT.

Sean McGoldrick  
Chair  
CIGRE Australia

Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**Members Present**

Adrian Lloyd  
Alex Baitch  
Alex Cruickshank  
Andrew Halley  
Angela Klepac  
Asif Bhangor  
Babak Badrzadeh  
Colin Peacock  
Damien Scott  
David Bones  
David Pita  
Greg Thorpe  
Henry Liu  
Jason David  
Jennifer Crisp  
Jenny Gannon  
John Diesendorf  
Kenneth Barber  
Natasha D'Silva  
Patrick McMullan  
Peter Bishop  
Peter McIntyre  
Phil Southwell  
Ray Brown  
Rob Coggan  
Russell Wheatland  
Stewart Bell  
Tri Tran  
Wayne Pepper  
Yi Li  
Sean McGoldrick

**Members Participating via Webinar**

Alison Andrew  
Andreas Laubi  
David Strong  
Edward Wilson  
Genevieve Lietz  
Natasha D'Silva  
Petter Muttik  
Stephen Palmer  
Tara-lee Macarthur  
Terry Killen  
Matt Waters  
Andreas Lem



Robert Lake  
Peter Wiehe

**Apologies**

Akhtar Kalam  
Barry Finlay  
Brett Hampson  
Gary Brennan  
Graham Vincent  
James Warr  
Phil Coughlan  
Rainer Korte  
Richard Bevan  
Ross Willoughby  
Terry Kreig  
Terry Lampard  
Tony Morton  
Warwick Glendenning