

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CIGRE Australia Ltd

## MINUTES (DRAFT)

Wednesday 19th October 2022

Formal Proceedings 11:01am – 12:33 AEST

Location: By Webinar

### 1. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

#### a) Opening – 11:01am

Chief Executive - Mr Terry Killen welcomed members and explained running of the event and instructions to members on how to use the chat box.

Mr Killen advised Trade Practice Compliance notification, outlined the Anti-competitive ACCC behaviour restrictions, and advised members that they needed to be aware that everyone online could see what was written in the chat box.

#### b) Apologies

Chief Executive Mr Terry Killen noted apologies: Ashok Manglick, Sarath Perera, Gary Brennan, Tony Morton on behalf of Vysus, Richard Bevan, Russell Wheatland, Givantha Silva, Crina Costan, Kerry Williams, Stephen Hinchliffe, Alex Baitch, Jonathon Dyson, Ken Barber, Patrick McMillan, Sally Earnshaw, Yohan Weerasinghe, Alison Andrew, Trevor Armstrong, Steven Jay, Ed Wilson.

#### Quorum & Other Business Items

Being more than 20 members present, there was a quorum of 42 members on-line.

Items of other business:

1. There were no items of other business recorded

#### Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2021 AGM had been circulated.

Chief Executive Mr. Terry Killen noted no questions had been submitted prior to the meeting and asked those in attendance to submit any via the chat facility.

There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were taken as an accurate record of the 2021 meeting.

#### Remembrances

The Chief Executive, Mr Terry Killen advised that unfortunately he had been advised that Mr. Peter Wallace had passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> June after a short battle with brain cancer. Peter Wallace was well known regionally and internationally within CIGRE and had been an active member SC C1 area having involvement over time in many WG and technical areas. Members observed a minutes silence in remembrance.

Mr Killen stated that Board members were online via MS Teams and available to answer questions live. All presentations had been pre-recorded.

### 2. OFFICE-HOLDER REPORTS

#### a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Dr Sean McGoldrick, welcomed members

Mr Armstrong commented that CIGRE has had another successful year with a good financial result and the detail would be covered by Dr Steven Jay ( Treasurer) and Mr Terry Killen (CEO).

Dr McGoldrick outlined the areas he would cover in his talk.

- Evolving Industry
- Core Values
- Top Focus Areas
- What we would like to achieve/KPI's
- Some Achievements
- Conclusion

Dr McGoldrick then commented that the industry and power sector continues to evolve and present challenges. The east coast gas and electricity markets experienced an unprecedented crisis in June 2022 involving extremely high wholesale prices, the temporary suspension of the electricity market and the failure of several small retailers. In August 2022, Energy Ministers announced the vision, principles and key initial priority areas for a new National Energy Transformation Partnership (the Partnership) The Partnership's first action will be to fast-track an emissions objective into the national energy objectives. Globally we have seen gas supply issues and significant increases in commodity prices caused by the Ukraine crisis.

The NEM requires significant investment in renewable energy, flexible capacity and the transmission network to support them. All Australian jurisdictions have committed to a net zero Carbon targets.

This constant significant change presents challenges and has required CIGRE Globally and our board to consider where CIGRE sits and how we can continue to provide value and relevance.

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Dr McGoldrick stated that the board met early in 2022 to consider where does CIGRE fit in this environment ? Revisit our raison d etre in light of the changing global energy climate

Dr McGoldrick stated that in order for for CIGRE to continue to be relevant and of interest to members and the broader Power industry, we must be able to present a good value proposition

He Stated he believed that CIGRE globally and regionally is able to do that and our international reach and network is a key point of differentiation.

Dr MGoldrick commented that the boards focus remains pretty much what we settled on previously and seems to be starting to provide results in terms of member growth and events offered. He said that Mr Killen (CEO) would go through some detail later, but the board are fairly happy with the results over recent years in terms of continued member growth and the continued growth of the events and technical seminars. He commented on the success of the CIDER conference earlier this year and was encouraged with the interest being shown in the Cairns Symposium next year.

Dr McGoldrick commented briefly on the Plan on page which is on our website.

It continues to be a work in progress however we have aimed to provide a summary structure to ensure that we are addressing the key components required to keep CIGRE moving forward.

Retention of members and gaining new members is clearly important, particularly our panel members where the technical work is discussed

The 16 panels convenors do a great job in co-ordinating their panels. Some panels have more members than others, but as an overall target around 25 members per panel is a reasonable manageable target.

Dr. McGoldrick stated that the board see it as important to maintain our international

representation on the Study Committees and working groups as it ensures our members are able to keep abreast of international developments. We continue to develop other channels to market during the year to support our technical reputation – Corona Times, ITL, YouTube channel which Mr Killen (CEO) will discuss in his presentation.

Dr. McGoldrick stated that as with many other organisations, we have had issues staging physical events this last couple of years, however have been able to hold some virtual events and webinars and held a very successful Physical return of CIDER in Adelaide in May of this year.

Paris was also a major success this year and saw over 3700 delegates attend the session in August including 110 Aussies.

We need to ensure that we have adequate policies and processes in place to ensure compliance with appropriate laws and regulations and have continued our run of successful Audit signoffs and ASIC compliance.

Dr McGoldrick briefly showed a membership graph and commented that continued growth was pleasing to see especially as we are still seeing additional Collective 1's join.

He also briefly commented on the financial position which Dr. Jay (Treasurer will comment on later) but commented that from his perspective it is pleasing to see that we are able to continue to report surpluses whilst continuing to grow membership and contribute to the broader CIGRE technical community.

Dr McGoldrick then spoke to the various international awards that Australians had received at the Paris session and that none of the achievements would be possible without the ongoing work and hours that members contribute. Recipients of awards were:

Mr. Richard Bevan - CIGRE Medal (2021)

Mr. Peter Bishop - Technical Council Award

Mr. Steve Jones – Distinguished Member Award,

Dr Genevieve Lietz – Women in Energy WiE Award

Ms Madeline Binet – NGN (Young Engineer) Significant Contribution Award

Mr. Matthew Zillmann – NGN (Young Engineer) Significant Contribution Award

Mr Phil Coughlan who was appointed to the global NGN Chair role.

Dr McGoldrick further commented that he was happy that we were able to fund some NGN members to attend the Paris Session and to establish a NGN mentor and Ambassador program.

Dr McGoldrick concluded by stating that Board happy with progress, but we realise we need to ensure we continue to attract new members and ensure we continue to offer value to the existing members particularly in these times of constant change and structural review

The changing times will require us to review how we deliver our technical information and events to best provide for the needs of our members and the industry more broadly.

The development and support of our young members remains of paramount importance

The Paris Session saw us ramp up the promotion and planning for the 2023 Symposium.

It looks like by 2023, travel restrictions both here and globally will be pretty much back to normal and we are looking forward to welcoming our CIGRE and industry colleagues from our region and around the world to the Symposium in Cairns. Mr Killen (CEO) will cover some more detail on the progress of and planning for the Cairns Symposium

We certainly do seem to live in Challenging times and I think the expertise within CIGRE has a lot to offer in addressing some of these challenges.

He thanked all the members of CIGRE and the board for their support in my first year of Chair and I look forward to 2023, our 70<sup>th</sup> year in Australia and of course the Cairns Symposium in September.

#### **Questions from the Members:**

No questions were raised by members and Mr Killen (CEO) said that members could contact him after the session if they had follow up questions.

#### **b) Finance & Auditor's Report**

Treasurer Dr. Stephen Jay presented the Finance report.

Dr Jay commented that overall we have had a really good year with an operating surplus of over \$102,000 however that translated to an accounting surplus of just over \$13,000 due to a market loss in the FIIG bond portfolio. However he commented that the board is still comfortable with the investment and it has returned just over \$30,000 in income.

Dr Jay said we did anticipate positive returns over coming years, but these would be impacted by the Paris Session falling in the Olympic Games period and the Cairns Symposium.

He briefly commented on the financial history of surplus and deficit, reminded members of why we had sustained a deficit in 2013-2017 and reiterated the boards aim to maintain a small surplus or deficit.

Dr Jay commented that we must remember whilst we are a Not For Profit organisation, we also are a not for loss, so aim to make at least small surpluses each year and maintain the balance.

Dr Jay talked through the slides and highlighted the results over the last three years.

He noted that our accounting system operates on an accrual basis and that we were reporting a surplus of \$ 13 327 which was the fifth consecutive year of reporting a surplus which was really pleasing to see.

Dr Jay outlined some of the revenues an in particular commented on the success of CIDER this year.

He commented on the other revenue category which has been negative and impacted greatly by the poor FIIG managed bond investment portfolio.

Our Expenses are always monitored closely, Dr Jay explained the -\$11734 figure in the expenses category was an insurance refund related to air travel booked for the 2020 Paris Session which has taken some time to come through.

Dr Jay then presented a look forward over the next three years, with the budget for 21/23 and forecast for 2024 and 2025. He reiterated that our strategy is to maintain a small surplus whilst continuing to grow the organisation and provide superb technical information to the industry and out members. He stated that with the current economic climate, many expenses such as insurances were increasing and the cost of supporting overseas travel of technical convenors was expected to be greater in future years so there was a degree of financial uncertainty as we move into our 70<sup>th</sup> year in Australia and the Cairns Symposium.

Dr Jay encouraged all members to get involved in the Symposium and commented that it was joint exercise with the Paris Central office and was operating under a separate budget.

Dr Jay outlined a few of the assumptions lying behind the figures in the budget and forecast.

Including the fee increase and restructuring of the Collective 1 membership from the Paris Office. He commented that whilst members will see some price increases as a result, the CIGRE Australian board had chosen to soak up some of the increase and not pass it all on.

The 2023 Cairns symposium will have its own budget, but may impact the number of events we offer in the 2023 calendar year.

Dr Jay commented that expenses were generally budgeted to increase in line with budget however we may see some increased expenditure in the marketing and promotion area due to the Cairns Symposium.

Dr Jay commented on the growth of the NGN and the introduction of the Ambassador program as being beneficial.

Dr Jay presented a graph which showed the significant drop in income due the fall in interest rates on Term Deposits.

Dr Jay discussed the new fee and member structure for 2023 and that the invoices for the 2023 fees will be issued by the end of October and payment by the end of 2022 would be appreciated.

He concluded by commenting that he believes we have had a very successful year and that the board takes its fiduciary duty very seriously.

He thanked the board and members for their support during his eight years on the board and wished members well.

**Questions:**

Mr Rod Hughes asked if SEAPAC 2023 and CIDER 2023 revenue would be considered independently of Symposium Revenue/Costs

**Answer:**

Mr Killen (CEO) replied that it was a good question and was probably a bit of a hybrid as CIDER and SEAPAC are incorporated into the Symposium there will be some shared costs however in setting SEAPAC and CIDER up promoting essentially local Australia events, we would need to wear some of those costs, so there was still some negotiating to take place.

Question:

Mr Diptiman Yadav asked what were the elements making up the just over \$2mill equity.

**Answer:**

Mr Killen responded that the equity for CIGRE Australia is fairly straight forward and was simply our Assets (Cash, Term Deposits and the FIIG bond account) less and liabilities that we had. Liabilities may be items such as members fees paid that had not yet been expended or event fees paid for events yet to take place, lease payments etc.

### **Appointment of Auditors for 2022:**

Mr Killen mentioned a question regarding appointment of Auditors which was raised last year. A member had raised the question whether we should have the same auditor in consecutive years. Mr Killen explained that Pilot always have at least two persons on the Audit and at least one of them is usually a different member than in previous years. The sampling of transactions is a random sample and CIGRE need to provide the associated evidence and documentation to align with the sample chosen. Mr Killen commented that from his experience at other organisations, Pilot Partners carried out a robust, professional and reliable audit.

Mr Killen asked members if there were any objections to Pilot Partners being appointed as the auditor for 2023. Given no objections, Pilot partners were appointed to carry out the 2023 Audit.

### **c) Chief Executive Report (pre-recorded)**

Mr. Terry Killen (Chief Executive) presented his report summarising some of the CIGRE activities and achievements over the last year.

Mr Killen presented a summary of the year's activity.

CIGRE Membership continues to grow and we remain ranked 8<sup>th</sup> globally by member number. CIGRE Australia and CIGRE NZ have quite high CIGRE membership on a per capita basis. Mr Killen highlighted that even during COVID, we had seen member numbers grow – perhaps as people had more time to search and look up the sort of technical information that CIGRE can provide.

He highlighted the number of CIGRE members by country population and that Australia has one of the highest per capita membership of CIGRE globally, with 32 members per million of population.

Mr Killen also presented an update to the International Awards and recognition slide which had been covered in the Chairmans address.

Mr Killen noted the success of CIGRE Australia's website and social platforms, particularly the success of the You Tube channel which now has some 695 subscribers and LinkedIn which has 3425 followers. He also commented on the success of the members only Corona Times which has now moved to a monthly rather than fortnightly edition.

Mr Killen highlighted some current and planned initiatives, including the NGN Ambassador program which is aimed at providing participants with some training via the Australian Institute of Management and then utilising the participants within their own organisations to promote and be a CIGRE contact. He also made comment on the NGN Mentoring program which began last year and has nine participant pairings. CIGRE will look to grow this program in 2023.

Mr Killen spoke to some of the events that have been planned. In particular he spoke to the Cairns Symposium planned for 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The theme of which is “the end-to-end electricity system: Transition, development, operation and integration” and summarised the marketing and promotion of the event at the Paris Session.

As at the date of the AGM, we now have eleven of the sixteen global Study Committees expressing interest in attending the Symposium which should see in excess of 500 delegates attend over the week. Mr Killen encouraged all members to consider attending.

Mr Killen stated that 2023 will also be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CIGRE in Australia so watch this space for events and activities and put Cairns 4-7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in your calendar.

### **Questions:**

Mr Ken Ash commented that members need to remember that CIDER and SEAPAC will also be held within the Symposium.

Mr Killen reminded members that the one Symposium ticket will also allow access to CIDER and SEAPAC. Delegates will be able to move between presentations throughout the day as they wish.

#### **d) The Australian Technical Committee report**

Ms Angela Klepac (ATC Chair) presented a summary of the technical highlights from 2022.

She stated that 2022 was a year of connecting in person and collaborating.

Ms Klepac commented that we had high engagement in our activities for the year. We held a ATC Strategy and Planning day in June 2022 which was very useful in setting the agenda for the coming year and discuss and agree key actions.

The Paris 2022 Session went ahead in August and was a great success and enjoyed by all. Fifteen of our Sixteen panel convenors were able to attend and we had a high level of participation from Australians. The Large Disturbance workshop featured commentary on the wide spread impact of cyclone and restoration in WA and an interim comment on the market Suspension of the NEM in June 2022.

Ms Klepac congratulated the Award winners announced at the Session and previously mentioned in the Chairman's address.

The ATC annual Technical Seminar (free event) will be held in Sydney on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November and is a great opportunity to see what work the panels are involved in and to question the convenors on activities within their panel area. Mr Les Brand is to deliver a session on HVDC on the Friday morning and a tour of the Haymarket substation.

The ATC technical reports will be available by the end of the year and will include reports from panel convenors as well as Working Group convenors that CIGRE Australia support.

Ms Klepac also reminded members that the output of the CIGRE body of work is available through e-cigre where most documents are available free to members.

Ms Klepac commented on the success of the CIDER event and outlined the upcoming SEAPAC23 and CIDER23 which will part of the Cairns 2023 Symposium. She reminded members of the Cairns Symposium and encouraged members to submit papers and/or attend.

Ms Klepac closed by thanking all the convenors for their work and looks forward to 2023, our 70<sup>th</sup> year and the Cairns Symposium.

#### **Questions:**

Mr Rob Lake commented and reminded members that CIGRE New Zealand was also involved in some of our panels and that they had a close working relationship with CIGRE Australia.

Mr Killen (CEO) agreed and stated that a number of Australias panel convenors had/were assisting their NZ colleagues in setting up similar panel structures and that we did work closely and cooperate on a number of levels.

## **NGN (Next Generation Network) Report**

Mr Phil Coughlan introduced the presentation which would be shared by him, (Maddy Binet and Adrian Lloyd). Mr Coughlan explained that he was outgoing and that Mr Lloyd was the incoming co-chair to work with Ms. Maddy Binet.

Mr Coughlan stated that the Australian NGN now have 232 members and he then gave a brief outline of the NGN activities for the year which included contributions to the Corona Times newsletter, webinars and participating in the NGN ambassador and Mentoring programs. The international webinars with the UK and NZ proved very popular.

Mr Coughlan presented a summary of the International NGN operations and stated that he had been elected as the Global NGN Chair following the Paris Session. There are now thirty-five NGN groups globally.

Mr Coughlan commented on upcoming webinars and the Paris Session, where we had eight NGN attendees. He congratulated Ms Neha Moturi and Mr. Yi Siang Ooi who were the 2022 NGN Paris Scholarship recipients and Mr Nathan Crooks who was one of the 2020 recipients.

The NGN will actively participate in the Cairns Symposium and is aiding in the establishment of the Australian Women in Energy group ( Chairperson Director Tara-Lee MacArthur) which mirrors other similar international committees. Director Jennifer Crisp and NGN Co-Chair Maddy Binet are members of the CIGRE In augural WiE Net Zero initiative announced at the Paris Session. Mr Coughlan presented some high level gender diversity statistics on CIGRE membership. Whilst 40% of the board are female, only 6.1% of individual members are female and 23% of NGN members are female.

Mr Coughlan commented that the NGN website was growing and had new functionality and content. He also acknowledged those who received awards at the Paris Session and thanked Director Ms Tara-Lee MacArthur as panlist in the NGN forum at the Kyoto Symposium and Dr. Stewart Bell for his participation in the NGN session at the Paris Session.

Mr Coughlan concluded by welcoming incoming committee members and outlining some future goals of the NGN.

### **Questions:**

Mr Rob Lake asked what was the maximum age for an NGN member.

Mr Killen (CEO) replied – 35 yrs of age.

## **3. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Killen explained that Mr Les Brand was the only nominee for the Treasurer role he would be directly appointed to the role without an election being required.

MR Killen also explained that with Mr Brand moving from General Director to the Treasurer role there were now two vacancies for General Director. As we only have two nominations, both nominees would be appointed to the roles. Dr Stewart Bell would be re-elected and Ms Alison Andrew would be appointed as a new director.

Mr Killen congratulated directors on their appointment.



#### 4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive had received no items for other business.

#### 5. CIGRE AWARDS

CEO, Mr. Terry Killen commented that this years Awards would be recognised at the in person ATC technical presentations in November of this year.

Mr Killen then handed to Mr David Bones (Deputy Chair) as Chair Dr Sean McGoldrick had to leave the meeting.

Mr Bones reiterated it had been a very busy and successful year and that it was a relief to see the Paris Session return to success following COVID. He encouraged members to participate in the Cairns Symposium and that members should aim to get their papers submitted prior to Melbourne Cup Day.

#### 6. NEXT MEETING

Mr Killen reminded members that they could forward questions after the close of the AGM and answers would be circulated with the minutes. He said he looked forward to seeing members in Sydney at the technical day and in Cairns 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### CLOSE OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

Mr Killen thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 12:38 pm

Signed as a true and correct record.

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CHAIRMAN

/ /  
Dated

**Attachment 1**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of**  
**CIGRE Australia Ltd**  
**APOLOGIES – AGM 2022**

**Below are the names of Members who have notified the Company Secretary of their Apology for the 2022 AGM:**

Ashok Manglick, Sarath Perera, Gary Brennan, Tony Morton on behalf of Vysus, Richard Bevan, Russell Wheatland, Givantha Silva, Crina Costan, Kerry Williams, Stephen Hinchliffe, Alex Baitch, Jonathon Dyson, Ken Barber, Patrick McMillan, Sally Earnshaw, Yohan Weerasinghe, Alison Andrew, Trevor Armstrong, Steven Jay Ed Wilson.

**Attachment 2**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of**  
**CIGRE Australia Ltd**  
**ATTENDEES – AGM 2022**

Alex Cruickshank	Ray Brown
Andreas Laubi	Rod HUGHES
Andrew Halley	Robert Lake
Brendan Watterson	Steven Jones
Christian Schaefer	Terry Krieg
David Strong	Sean McGoldrick
David Bowker	David Bones
DIPTIMAN YADAV	Les Brand
Dzevad Pita	Angela Klepac
John Diesendorf	Nicola Falcon
Julius Susanto	Stewart Bell
Ken Ash	Tara-Lee MacArthur
Matt Gibson	Terry Killen
Nilesh Modi	Jennifer Crisp
Peter Bishop	Phil Southwell
Phil Coughlan	