
AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GREENHOUSE NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Australian Industry Greenhouse Network Ltd

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Chair's Report

During a year that saw a federal election move discussion on climate policy further into the political space, AIGN has remained a steadfast voice for reasoned climate change and energy policy. AIGN and its members play a valuable role in facilitating sensible discussion and collaborating constructively with government and other key stakeholders.

Our monthly network meetings provide an insight to emerging policy developments. Held under Chatham House rules, these meetings provide our members and guests a forum to discuss, test and provide feedback on policies.

AIGN stands apart as a unique community of highly experienced professionals, which bring together their collective knowledge and expertise to promote the development of sensible international, national and local climate policy.

International Developments

Following the adoption (2015) and ratification (2016) of the Paris Agreement, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are seeking to finalise the Paris rule book, which will operationalise this landmark agreement.

Key to this is the commitment to limit global temperature increases to well below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases even further to 1.5° Celsius.

As we move closer to the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, the private sector is increasingly seeking ways to participate in a global market. This is reflected in the market mechanism negotiations that, if successful, will connect private sector finance to the Paris Agreement.

To this end, AIGN was represented at the 2018 end-of-year negotiations and the intersessional negotiation in June 2019. Both meetings were important in distinctive ways. AIGN was able to work collaboratively with the Australian delegation, stressing the importance of a deep and liquid carbon market, underpinned by practical and robust rules, to drive lowest cost carbon abatement.

Looking ahead to COP25 in Santiago, Chile in December 2019, AIGN will remain at the forefront of international developments, together with international colleagues, to support Party delegates in securing agreement on a sensible and credible market mechanism.



Domestic Policy

In February 2019, the Australian Government announced their Climate Solutions Package, a \$3.5 billion investment to deliver on Australia's 2030 Paris climate commitments. The package included a broad suite of policy initiatives including hydro, hydrogen, energy efficiency and a significant \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund aimed at reducing greenhouse gases across the economy.

AIGN has been active in facilitating discussion to design and implement amendments to the safeguard mechanism, both with the Department and the Regulator. Our constructive engagement has long been a mainstay of policy development at the federal level, which AIGN strives to continue throughout the evolution of the climate policy landscape in Australia.

In the midst of this uncertain environment, which has been a feature of the climate and energy debate in Australia for well over a decade, AIGN continues to advocate for a strategic, bipartisan national approach to addressing climate change that provides the institutional stability necessary to encourage long-term investment in abatement, and that maintains the competitiveness of Australian export- and import-competing industries.

AIGN has continued to cultivate constructive relationships with key departments and agencies, with whom we have engaged on issues ranging from policy principles to detailed elements of the Emissions Reduction Fund safeguard mechanism, the Renewable Energy Target and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme.

We have also reached out to State and Territory Governments; our aim is to promote a streamlined, national approach to climate change policy, and discourage *ad-hoc* approaches that duplicate Commonwealth Government policy and are inconsistent across state borders. This is particularly important when it comes to climate mitigation policies.

AIGN does, however, support the states taking a leadership role in developing and deploying adaptation measures.

Looking Ahead

In the year to come, AIGN will continue to engage closely with relevant officials as work on implementing the Paris Agreement continues; it is hoped Parties will succeed in agreeing to a broad framework for a market mechanism at the negotiations in Santiago in December 2019.

Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement will influence domestic policy discussions. The need is great for an integrated, whole-of-economy national policy or policy suite, including discussion and decision on Australia's targets and commitments beyond 2030. AIGN will continue to partner with our members to contribute to this debate.



Acknowledgements and Appreciation

First and foremost, the active involvement of AIGN members is, as ever, greatly appreciated. We hope to continue making an articulate and insightful contribution in bringing a broader industry perspective to climate change policy as it is developed and implemented.

In particular, I would like to thank State and Federal Government officials for their willingness to engage openly and often with AIGN. We thank the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Clean Energy Regulator, and the Climate Change Authority.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the work of the AIGN secretariat and the depth of expertise and information they provide.

And so, I join with AIGN members in looking forward in anticipation of what the next year will bring. My sincere thanks to all who support and contribute to make AIGN the respected organisation it has been for so many years.

Paul Barrett

Chair, Australian Industry Greenhouse Network

1. About AIGN

The Australian Industry Greenhouse Network Limited (AIGN) is a network of industry associations and corporations which see value in joint industry action on climate change policy issues to promote sustainable industry development.

AIGN seeks to promote the development of Australia's natural resources, manufacturing and industrial resources by:

- providing information, advice, and a forum for the analysis and formulation of public policy;
- consulting with government and other opinion leaders on the adoption of a principled national and international greenhouse policy framework within which effective and equitable
- domestic greenhouse gas abatement actions are developed and implemented, consistent with sustainable development; and
- contributing to the international climate change debate including through participation in international climate change meetings and events.

AIGN provides focused research and information services for its members, issuing updates on policy, preparing submissions to government and commissioning research publications on relevant climate change issues.

1.1 Strength through networking

AIGN maintains a strong practise of networking with members, governments and other key stakeholders to provide a reasoned and informed voice for industry in the development and implementation of climate change policy.

Key to AIGN's success are the monthly network meetings, which facilitate policy discussions and information sharing between members, invited government representatives and other subject matter experts.

AIGN continues to advocate for sensible climate change policy - that promotes economic growth and is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development. AIGN's policy principles form the basis of this engagement (Section 6).

While the network's primary focus is on national policy, the evolution of state-level climate change policies continues to draw focus. The strength of AIGN's internal networking comes to the fore in this area providing valuable insight into state policy.

Duplication of mitigation and reporting policy at a subnational level introduces unnecessary red tape and adds to the cost of doing business in Australia. AIGN continues to advocate for stable and streamlined national policy to address climate change mitigation and reporting.

AIGN is also an active contributor to industry-government consultation on international policy and is a business delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

2. Australian policy evolution

Climate and energy policy have a way of remaining towards the forefront of the Australian political discourse, and the 2018-19 year was no different.

Set amongst the backdrop of Australia's world leading National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting policy; the mature Renewable Energy Target; and the national offset incentive program – the Emissions Reduction Fund; there were a number of significant climate and energy policy developments this year.

It was a year that saw substantive amendments to the Safeguard Mechanism Rule; a rejuvenated commitment to the Emissions Reduction Fund – largely through the announcement of the \$2 billion Climate Solutions Package; continued development of State and Territory originated climate policy; and significantly the coming and then subsequent the going of the National Energy Guarantee.

2.1 National Energy Guarantee

Energy policy continued to confound Parliament, with the failure to land the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) policy ultimately contributing to policy uncertainty in the energy sector.

The Energy Security Board pursued their process for designing a National Energy Guarantee (NEG) covering the eastern states via amendments to the laws establishing and regulating the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The NEG represented the first time that a policy was being designed to address energy and emissions priorities simultaneously.

Reducing electricity sector emissions will be one of several essential components of meeting Australia's international commitments and transitioning to a low carbon economy.

The emissions element of the NEG was abandoned while the reliability element became the Retailer Reliability Obligation (RRO), which came into effect on 1 July 2019.

2.2 Climate Solution Package

On 25 February 2019, the Australian Government announced the Climate Solutions Package, a \$3.5 billion investment to deliver on Australia's 2030 Paris climate commitments.

In addition to investment in a high-tech expansion of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and a second interconnector, Marinus Link, between Victoria and Tasmania, the package included a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund aimed at reducing greenhouse gases across the economy.

The plan built on existing policies, importantly seeking to leverage broader contributions through the Emissions Reduction Fund.

Other elements of the package included:

- investments to assist households and businesses improve energy efficiency and lower energy bills
- a commitment to develop a national electric vehicle strategy
- support for local community projects

2.3 Safeguard Mechanism Amendments

Amendments to the safeguard mechanism arising out of the 2017 review of climate policies, were made in March 2019 and apply from the 2018-19 compliance year onwards.

Key elements of these amendments are the development of production variables and associated emission intensity factors.

AIGN hosted constructive engagement sessions on these amendments with the Department of the Environment and Energy and the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to assist members with the transition to the new Rules and provide valuable feedback for the Government.

2.4 NGERs Guidance Project

The CER initiated an internal project to improve and expand its guidance material for the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS), inviting AIGN to provide input into the selection of focus areas to draft either new or revised guidance.

AIGN recommended the following areas:

- Operational control for offshore vessels
- Notification of unavailability of method
- Testing of bias fluids against appropriate standard
- Materiality
- Audits (including voluntary audits)
- Coal mining energy and emissions – interpretation of decommissioning of mines.

AIGN will continue to work closely with the CER and contribute to this project as draft guidance material is produced.

2.5 Victorian Government interim targets

States and Territories have continued to review and progress climate change and energy policies. Most have now committed to net zero emissions by 2050, with others currently under consideration.

In Victoria, the Government continued its work on setting legislated interim emissions reduction targets. AIGN participated in consultation workshops and provided a written submission.

Key issues raised by AIGN included: preference for streamlined national legislation, the risks of duplicative climate change legislation, and the potential negative impact on investment that can result from layers of mitigation policy and associated administrative costs.

AIGN emphasised the role state and local governments can play in the climate change adaptation space.

3. International policy negotiations

The [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) facilitates the development and implementation of common action across the international community to address climate change.

A long-term, universal climate agreement based on common and transparent commitments across member parties will encourage industry to make the appropriate investment in transitioning to a low net carbon environment.

Typically, international commitments have been reflected in domestic policy. AIGN's involvement in international negotiations is long-standing and crucial in ensuring the interests of Australian businesses are represented in this space.

Furthermore, the subtle shift within the negotiations to design and implementation suggests a deepening value for close stakeholder engagement with the international process.

3.1 Progress on the Paris Agreement at COP24

The adoption of the Paris Agreement saw widespread global commitment to the objectives of limiting global temperature increases to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit temperature increases even further to 1.5°C.

As is custom, the AIGN secretariat had a presence at the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties, meeting for the twenty-fourth time (COP 24) in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland, taking on the COP Presidency for a third time.

Australia's environment minister at the time, the Hon Melissa Price MP, joined Australia's negotiating team headed by long-time Ambassador for the Environment, Mr Patrick Suckling.

Non-state actors from industry, local governments, the finance sector, environment groups and cities were in prominent attendance, reflecting the general view that reducing emissions requires a response across all levels of society.

In Bonn at COP23 in November 2017 (under the Presidency of Fiji), Parties worked towards creating the rulebook to operationalise the Paris Agreement by discussing critical issues requiring resolution.

Finance was a key theme, and discussions on the design of a market mechanism raised a variety of issues that need to be reconciled for a mechanism to be established.

This work laid the basis for the achievements at COP24 in Katowice.

Parties agreed on a 156-page rulebook, which included monitoring, review and verification processes for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC: the commitments Parties voluntarily make to contribute to Paris goals), and how to account for transfers of units between Parties.

While a huge amount of work was agreed in Katowice, two key obstacles remain.

Firstly, the rules and governance for a market mechanism are not yet agreed; the other issue relates to the requirement for increasing ambition over time – which some Parties wish to see as a general directive for collective ambition, while others interpret it to mean each Party's successive NDCs need to raise ambition in their domestic action.

AIGN also attended SB50 – an intersessional meeting of the subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC in Bonn, in June 2019. As a smaller, technical meeting, the level and quality of engagement with the Australian delegation, delegation groupings like the Umbrella Group and the international business community was very high.

The Party delegates were not in a position to resolve the differences between diametrically opposed positions, but they worked hard in Bonn to build their understanding of other Parties' views, with the hope of enabling their ministerial representatives to come to agreement at the forthcoming negotiations in December 2019.

3.2 Finalising the Paris Rulebook at COP25

Looking ahead, negotiators at COP25 (Santiago, Chile) will be aiming to land the remaining elements of the rulebook, including agreement on the market mechanism and how to characterise ambition.

As countries develop policies to meet their targets, there are further differences emerging in their approaches and the costs imposed on domestic business. These differences will be critical in determining possible impacts on Australian businesses and ultimately policy to address trade exposed businesses.

Issues around trade competitiveness remain valid in any future policy development in Australia, and must be addressed to minimise differences in the facility-level costs of climate change policies.

It will be critical to develop and implement measures to ensure the integrity of nationally determined contributions. Of particular importance is the ability of countries to monitor, review and verify the impact of climate change policies.

4. Network Meetings

AIGN's monthly network meetings continue to facilitate valuable exchanges among members and with key public and private sector stakeholders. These meetings provide opportunities to develop robust and thoughtful positions on common issues.

In addition to valuable internal discussion, AIGN hosted a diverse program of invited guests over the past 12 months covering a wide variety of issues:

Climate Change and Energy Policy

- Climate Solution Package
- Safeguard mechanism amendments policy development
- Clean Energy Regulator implementation of safeguard mechanism amendments
- ALP and Coalition election policy analysis
- Climate Change Authority review of NGERs (including safeguard mechanism)
- National Energy Guarantee
- Victorian Government interim emissions reduction targets

Emissions Reporting

- NGERs review of guidance material
- Climate Change Authority review of NGERs
- National Greenhouse Gas Inventory review
- National Pollutant Inventory review

International

- UNFCCC briefing on negotiations
- European Union climate change policy update
- Update on EU carbon market
- Climate risk disclosure perspectives (e.g. WWF, Investor Group on Climate Change / IGCC)

5. Policy Submissions and Presentations

Public and corporate interest in climate change and energy policy issues reflects the social and economic importance of this policy area.

Work continued with policy makers, regulators, thought leaders and affected entities on amendments to the existing policy setting baselines for industrial facilities, and efforts to create a climate and energy policy tool. AIGN secretariat and members were key contributors to these processes over the course of the year.

AIGN Submissions and Internal Papers in 2018-19 included:

- Analysis of Labor’s Climate Action Plan and the Coalition’s Climate Solutions Package
- National Energy Guarantee – regular verbal updates and written submission
- NGERs guidance project – meetings with CER and provision of list of issues
- Safeguard Mechanism – a series of workshops and discussions with the Department and the CER
- CCA NGERs review (reporting and safeguard elements) – consultation sessions at network meetings, written submission
- CCA updating Paris Agreement advice – consultation at network meeting; written submission
- NPI –written submission addressing proposed overlaps with NGERs reporting and state-based requirements and affect integrity of reporting.

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In addition to formal submissions on relevant climate change and energy policy, AIGN engaged in several public forums, either directly as a presenter / panellist or as a member of a roundtable session.

Engagements in 2017-18 included:

- UNFCCC: SB 50, delegate (Jun 2018)
- AGPA: webinar presentation (Jun 2018)
- CMI: 6th Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit, panellist (May 2019)
- AGIT methane policy webinar presentation (May 2019)
- EU Free Trade Agreement stakeholder briefing (Mar 2019)
- Sydney Institute Annual Dinner Lecture (Mar 2019)
- National Roundtable – Local Government and City Group Actions, experts forum (Mar 2019)
- AIGN: CER and DoEE SGM applications and amendments workshop (Mar 2019)
- UNFCCC: COP 24, delegate (Dec 2018)
- CCA meeting, NGER presentation (Nov 2018)
- UNFCCC: ADD SB 48, delegate (Sep 2018)
- DFAT: Article 6 briefing (Aug 2018)
- AIGN: Energy Transition breakfast panel (Aug 2019)
- DoEE: SGM updates teleconference (Aug 2018)
- Footprint news media (Jul 2018)

6. AIGN Climate Change Policy Principles

AIGN's climate change policy principles establish a framework for Australian policy development. In summary, these principles envisage a global agreement that imposes costs on the Australian community that are comparable to the costs expected to be borne in countries with similar wealth. In the domestic context, the principles envisage Australian policy measures that:

- are national
- are developed and implemented transparently to engender community support
- are stable, predictable and avoid complexity to help minimise investment uncertainty
- establish a long-term price signal across the whole economy
- do not expose Australian export- and import-competing industry to costs not faced by these industries in other countries
- promote public and private investment in first-of-a-kind low emission technologies
- do not discriminate against early movers and new entrants, and
- encourage the community to invest in adaptation strategies.

Adopting policies that meet these principles should deliver least-cost, environmentally-effective and equitable outcomes for Australia.

AIGN Climate Change Policy Principles

Australia should make an equitable contribution, in accordance with its differentiated responsibilities and respective capability, to global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to impacts of climate change.

Australia should engage the international community in pursuing identified and beneficial environmental outcomes through greenhouse gas emissions reduction action that:

- allows for differentiated national approaches;
- promotes international cooperation;
- minimises the costs and distributes the burden equitably across the international community;
- is comprehensive in its coverage of countries, greenhouse gases, sources and sinks;
- recognises the economic and social circumstances and aspirations of all societies; and
- is underpinned by streamlined, efficient and effective administrative, reporting and compliance arrangements.

In this global context, Australia should develop a strategic national approach to responding to climate change that:

- is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and other national policies, including economic growth, population growth, international trade, energy supply and demand, and environmental and social responsibility;
- takes a long-term perspective;
- maintains the competitiveness of Australian export and import-competing industries;
- distributes the cost-burden equitably across the community;
- adopts a consultative approach to the development of new policies; and
- is consistent and effectively coordinated across all jurisdictions throughout Australia.

Australia's future greenhouse policy measures should:

- be consistent with the strategic national approach;
- be trade and investment-neutral, in a way that does not expose Australian industry to costs its competitors do not face;
- not discriminate against new entrants to Australian industry, nor disadvantage 'early movers' in Australian industry who have previously implemented greenhouse gas abatement measures;
- take account of the differing sectoral circumstances;
- be based as far as is practicable on market measures;
- address all greenhouse gases, emission sources and sinks; and
- balance, in a cost-effective way, abatement and adaptation strategies, both of which should be based on sound science and risk management.

Australia's contribution to the global climate change effort as set out here reflects the principle in Article 3.1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities could take account of such matters as a country's economic growth and structure, population growth, energy production and use, etc.

7. Operating model

7.1 Objectives

The objectives of AIGN are to promote the development of Australia's natural resources, manufacturing and industrial resources. This is achieved through:

- Consultation with government and other opinion leaders on the adoption of a principled national and international greenhouse policy framework within which effective, equitable, efficient and appropriate domestic greenhouse gas abatement actions are developed and implemented, consistent with sustainable development;
- Provision of information, advice and a forum for developing analysis and participation in the process of public policymaking on the climate change issue; and
- Contribution to the international climate change debate, including through participation in international climate change meetings and events.

7.2 AIGN Secretariat

AIGN's fit for purpose secretariat operate via a virtual office, utilising technology for day-to-day communications.

This model optimises operational costs, whilst maintaining member benefits of monthly Canberra network meetings and AIGN website.

Secretariat staff for this reporting period, 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 include **Susie Smith**, *Chief Executive* (0.5 FTE); **Marion Niederkofler**, *Senior Policy Advisor* (0.4 FTE); and **Angela Gray**, *Business Manager and Company Secretary duties* (0.8 FTE).

8. Membership

Membership fees in 2018-19 were:

- Association membership: \$23,900 (excluding GST)
- Corporate membership: \$13,200 (excluding GST)

In accordance with the AIGN constitutional requirements (Clause 11), members are required to provide notice of membership resignation prior to the commencement of the next financial year.

Clause 11 of AIGN's constitution states that: "A member may at any time, by giving notice in writing to the Secretary, resign as a member. The resignation will be effective three (3) months from the date of receipt of the notice by the Secretary. A member so resigning shall be liable for payment of the subscription fee for the financial year in which the resignation becomes effective. When the resignation of a member becomes effective, that member's name must be removed from the register."

9. AIGN Board

In accordance with section 30 of the AIGN Constitution, AIGN's Board of Directors is elected in general meeting (table 1).

In managing the Company, the Board will determine an annual business plan and in executing that plan make decisions on the management of the Company pursuant to and consistent with the policy framework and strategic agenda as determined by the general meeting(s) of the Company is responsible for the company's business planning and operational oversight.

Business transacted and decisions made by the Board during 2018-19 have been communicated to members through the monthly network meetings and regular email communications.

For this reporting period, the Board is pleased to report:

- A return to net neutral financial report
- No workplace incidents or near misses.

Table 1: AIGN Directors (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019)

NAME	BOARD TENURE	BOARD MEETINGS				
		A	O	N	F	A
Paul Barrett <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd	Appointed: February 2015 Elected: October 2015 Re-elected: October 2017	●	●	●	●	●
Damian Dwyer BEc, Grad Dip Pub Ec Pol <i>Director, Economics</i> Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association	Elected: October 2011 Re-elected: October 2013, 15, and 16	●	●	●	●	●
Charmaine (Tzila) Katzel BSc, MSc, Mphil <i>Director, Policy, Environment & Community Affairs</i> BP Australia	Elected: October 2016	●	●	●	●	●
Miles Prosser BSc (Forestry) <i>Executive Director</i> Australian Aluminium Council	Elected: October 2018 Previous terms: Appt June 2009, 09, 11, 13, resigned Oct 2013	-	●	●	●	●
Margaret (Margie) Thomson BAgEcon, MEcon <i>Chief Executive</i> Cement Industry Federation Ltd	Appointed: March 2017 Elected: October 2017 Previous terms: October 2010, 12, resigned Jul 2014	●	●	●	●	●
John Torkington BAppSci <i>Manager, Climate Change</i> Chevron Australia Pty Ltd	Appointed: May 2007 Re-elected: October 2007, 09, 11, 13, 15, and 17	●	a	●	●	●
Graham Winkelman PhD Materials Eng <i>Practice Lead Climate Change</i> BHP Billiton Ltd	Appointed: January 2017 Elected: October 2017	●	a	a	●	a

**Directors may serve a two-year term on the Board. Directors are eligible to re-nominate via election at AIGN General Meeting.*

10. Financials

The financial statements, which accompany this report, confirm AIGN's continued sound financial position at the end of the reporting year. AIGN retains its commitment to providing members with a highly efficient, low cost network service. Operating costs have been reduced through the ongoing closure of the Canberra office and the rationalisation of administration and meeting costs.

AIGN's balance sheet at 30 June 2019 shows a figure of \$135,008 in retained earnings (compared to \$134,914 in 2018). The Board has justified the retention of this amount for two specific purposes, namely:

- to ensure that the Company will always have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due; and
- to provide sufficient funds to meet foreseen and unforeseen expenses in the unlikely event that the organisation is wound up.

The budget for 2019–20 was approved by the Board in July 2019. It forecasts a net neutral budget at the end of this financial year. This is based on membership remaining stable and no changes to secretariat arrangements (resourcing and virtual office).

AIGN Members at 30 June 2019

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Australian Aluminium Council
Australian Industry Group
Australian Institute of Petroleum
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association
Business Council of Australia
Cement Industry Federation
Minerals Council of Australia

*CORPORATE MEMBERS**

BHP
BlueScope Steel
BP Australia Ltd
Caltex Australia
Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
CSR Ltd
Dampier Bunbury Pipeline
Engie Australia
ExxonMobil Australia
Glencore Pty Ltd
Incitec Pivot Ltd
Origin Energy Ltd
Rio Tinto Australia Ltd
Santos Ltd
Shell Australia Ltd
Viva Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Wilmar Sugar Australia Limited
Woodside Petroleum Ltd

*Note two membership changes effective 1 July 2019: Inpex Ichthys Pty Ltd's membership application was approved by the Board and DBP membership resignation.

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