



Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy and Action Plan 2022-24 Interim Implementation Body

Communiqué

Update on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy, December 2022

Final meeting of the Interim Implementation Body

The Interim Implementation Body (IIB) met for the last time on 5 December 2022 to finalise the transition to the 'state-wide guidance and implementation body'.

This has been a huge piece of work and the key purpose of the Interim Implementation Body.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy and Action Plan includes two actions for establishing the state-wide guidance and implementation body:

- In the first 3-6 months - *Decide on the appropriate legal structure for the state-wide guidance and implementation body to lead and coordinate the Strategy & Action Plan 2022-2024* (page 15)
- In the next 6-12 months - *Establish the state-wide guidance and implementation body, and handover from Interim Implementation Body to the state-wide guidance and implementation body* (page 17)

The IIB is pleased to announce that both of these actions are now complete, the second of which was completed ahead of schedule.

Wildlife Network Tasmania

The IIB has agreed that the state-wide guidance and implementation body will be called 'Wildlife Network Tasmania'.

A constitution has been developed and application for an incorporated association has been submitted. The body now has an email address and there are plans to set up a website in the new year.

The role of Wildlife Network Tasmania has been a focus of the Interim Implementation Body's discussions and defining this role will be a priority in the new year.

The IIB would like to sincerely thank Honey McClay and Pam Doyle for generously volunteering their time over the last 18 months to support the development of the Strategy. Honey and Pam's knowledge, passion, and experience in wildlife rehabilitation has provided crucial insight and viewpoints that have greatly assisted in developing the community-led Strategy.

In addition, the IIB owes a great debt to Lisa Schimanski for her efforts and dedication as Chair of the Coordinating Body and the Interim Implementation Body. Lisa has provided the group with strong leadership and has been crucial to keeping the Strategy development and implementation on track.

We wish all three the very best.

Wildlife Network Tasmania will be running an Expressions of Interest process in the new year to attract new members. More information on this process will be released in 2023.

New Contact Details

The Interim Implementation Body email will no longer be used as the main point of contact.

Wildlife Network Tasmania has a new email address: wildlifenetwerktasmania@gmail.com.

Inaugural Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy Forum

The Interim Implementation Body ran its inaugural sector forum at the end of September. The forum was recorded and is available here: <https://youtu.be/CypM91dIL3s>

It is anticipated more forums will be held in 2023.

Plans for 2023

The Interim Implementation Body is very aware of the current issues on the front line for wildlife rehabilitators. Members have been working collaboratively and with Government, to try to resolve some of these immediate issues, where possible.

NRE Tas, Bonorong and WIRES continue to be in regular and ongoing discussions to improve operational matters around animal rescue and placements. Finding ways to improve the situation for rehabilitators on the ground will continue to be a focus as Wildlife Network Tasmania picks up the reins from the IIB.

The Interim Implementation Body has been working with NRE Tas around compliance and enforcement matters. NRE Tas has been responsive and is taking a number of actions including developing a program of auditing and educating holders of rehabilitation permits.

Wildlife Network Tasmania will continue these discussions in the new year and will continue to work towards delivery of Strategy actions across the various identified priority areas (funding, mentoring, training, veterinary, etc).

As 2022 draws to a close the IIB would like to thank all those who engaged with the development process throughout the year. It has been a long road, and may indeed be longer yet, but it is a journey we will travel together. To all our wonderful rehabilitators and rescuers, thank you too for the many long hours, days and weeks you have given our precious animals this year. Please have a safe and merry Christmas, and while we know for many it may not be a relaxing celebration, we hope it is a joyous one.