

## Note of Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – August 2020

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met on Friday 7 August 2020, all board members attending. The meeting was held by Zoom as COVID-19 restrictions were still in force.

After an *in camera* session at the commencement, acknowledgement of country, and adoption of minutes and discussion of action items, the auditors EY presented their closing report on the FY 20 audit. The board was pleased to accept the report and the unqualified opinion in relation to OAU's financial affairs for the year, and to note the auditors have been briefed on contemporaneous circumstances, important in the extraordinary times we are all experiencing.

The board confirmed a decision made during July by circular resolution, and noted the exercise of delegations in relation to financial and operational matters.

After these matters and formalities were dealt with, the Chief Executive (CE) Lyn Morgain gave her report. She commenced with an update of COVID responses including the work that Oxfam is doing globally to support vulnerable peoples that we work with, and discussed staff health and wellbeing. An update was provided on the Strategic Framework for 2020-2025 including on the final draft design package. Economic, Climate and Gender Justice are major themes, along with partnership on the rights of First Nations Peoples here in Australia. Lyn briefed the board on program highlights including a re-forestation project in Timor L'Este, deployment of a micro desalination technology trial with the Gunditjmara Peoples in South West Victoria, and progress on a more fully integrated approach to our Pacific work, and discussed our policy advocacy efforts on several fronts.

The CE and Chair spoke to happenings within Oxfam International. Decisions have been made at a high cadence, including on our country footprint, global operating model and governance arrangements, all against a backdrop of the challenges that COVID is presenting all around the world. Oxfam International has a new Chief Executive, Gabriela Bucher from Columbia, joining us from Plan International where she was Chief Operating Officer.

Board matters followed. The Nominations Committee had met and recommended the reappointment of Lindy Tallis, Alan Wu and Geoff McClellan for further one-year terms, which the board has confirmed. This was a measure proposed to assist in navigating the tremendous change and allow time for the finalization of the governance review presently in train. The board agreed to continue its support of the Observership Program, with an Observer to spend a year with the board in 2021, our fifth Observer over consecutive years.

Committee reports came next, the Public Engagement, First Peoples and Governance Committee chairs presenting their reports. The latter contained papers and an ensuing discussion on future board composition and skills, and adoption of a diversity and psychological safety policy.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of Oxfam Australia was held with Guarantor Members in attendance, reports by the Chair, CE, and Committee Chairs were presented, and the 2020 Statutory Accounts accepted.

This meeting marked the retirement of Ann Byrne, Greg Ridder and Dennis Goldner from the board. A small, virtual celebration of their contribution was held at the end of the meeting and the board confirmed and heartily welcomed Dr Judith Slocombe AM to the chair.

This is my final Board Meeting Note to the Oxfam family after six years as Chair. I thank my board and management colleagues and the entire Oxfam team immensely, and readers of this note for

your interest and support. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve and I look forward to watching and supporting Oxfam's excellent work and progress into the future.

Dennis Goldner

Chair, Oxfam Australia.

August 2020.