

# CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS



**DECEMBER 2007**

## **Co-operatives Bill 2007 ready for Parliamentary debate**

The Hon Sheila McHale MLA Minister for Consumer Protection tabled the Co-operatives Bill 2007 in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday 29 November. The Bill was tabled on the last sitting day of the Assembly for 2007 and will be scheduled for debate in early 2008.

"Co-operatives WA is pleased the Bill is now in Parliament and looks forward to adoption of the legislation which will modernise the law that supports the operations of WA based co-operatives" said Chris Enright Chairman of Co-operatives WA.

Co-operative WA was a member of the Industry Working Group and worked with the Minister's staff on the Bill which will bring WA's co-operative law into line with other States and Territories under an Act that will be "core consistent legislation".

The Bill, which is the result of considerable planning and consultation, preserves key aspects of the current legislation for pre-existing co-operatives. It also provides for a period of transition for co-operatives that exist at the time new legislation is proclaimed. Co-operatives formed after proclamation of a new Act will be governed by the new legislation.

## **Parliamentary sitting dates for 2008**

The Legislative Assembly of the Western Australian Parliament is scheduled to meet on the following dates in the first half of 2008:

### **February 2008**

Tuesday 23 - Thursday 26

### **March 2008**

Tuesday 11 - Thursday 13

Tuesday 18 - Thursday 20

### **April 2008**

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3

Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10

### **May 2008**

Tuesday 6 - Thursday 8

Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15

Tuesday 20 - Thursday 22

### **June 2008**

Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12

Tuesday 17 - Thursday 19

## **Welcome to Co-operatives WA**

Council welcomes to Co-operatives WA the following new members:

### **Karlgarin Co-operative Limited**

(farm input and retail co-operative located 330 km south east of Perth)

### **Organic and Biodynamic Meats Western**

**Australia Co-operative Ltd** (marketing co-operative for south west producers of premium grade certified organic meats - principally beef)

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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## International Co-operative Alliance

Representatives from WA co-operatives attended the ICA General Conference held in Singapore during October.

Delegates to the Conference included Trent Bartlett, CEO of Capricorn Society and Wally Newman, Director of Co-operative Bulk Handling. Both delegates briefed Council on a range of matters addressed at the ICA meeting.

The world-wide co-operative movement represents a very large proportion of commerce done around the globe. From massive enterprises in Europe to small villages in Asia, co-operative business principles are working to improve the livelihood of their members.

Through the auspices of the Co-operative Council of Australia, Co-operatives WA is in discussion with the ICA about the benefits to both the Alliance and the Australian co-operative movement of CCA becoming a member of the world-wide body.

Council congratulates Capricorn Society Ltd on being admitted as a full Member to the International Co-operative Alliance. Capricorn, the only Australian member of the world-wide Alliance of co-operatives was officially inducted into the ICA at the General Assembly Conference in Singapore during October 2007.

## Annual Conference

The 2007 Annual Conference was well attended and delegate feedback was positive. Planning is already underway for next year. We have locked in a date and a larger venue for the 2008 Conference. Next year's conference will return to a conference table seated format. In the New Year we will send Members an MS Outlook invitation. Simply accept the invite and your diary will automatically record

the details. Formal registration packs will provide a reminder closer to the event. Thank you to the following 2007 Conference Sponsors for their ongoing support:

- Capricorn Society
- Co-operative Bulk Handling
- Co-operative Purchasing Services

### 2007 CONFERENCE SCORE CARD

1= Poor; 2 = Average; 3 = Good; 4 =Very Good; 5 =Excellent

Feature	Highest	Lowest	Average
Location	5	3	3.6
Facilities	4	2	3.4
Catering	5	2	3.6
Worthwhile	5	3	3.6
Value	5	3	3.6
How often	Annual	24 months	Average
Choice	1	2	1.1
Networking	Yes	No	Average
Valuable	1	2	1.1

## Council Meetings for Calendar 2008

Fri 7 March 2008	Fri 6 June 2008	Fri 1 August 2008	Fri 5 December 2008
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If you have agenda topics you believe Council should address on behalf of Members email details to [info@cooperativeswa.org.au](mailto:info@cooperativeswa.org.au) or speak with a Councillor.

## Share Registry Project

Responses to an invitation to express interest in up grading share registry systems indicate that Members are facing a range of Shareholder management issues.. Enquiries are being made locally and overseas to establish if proprietary systems are available to meet the needs of Members. The alternative to proprietary systems is to draft a generic set of

specifications and invite expressions of interest to crafting a specific program for Australian co-operatives.

Are you in the market to up-grade for your Member records? If so email your requirements to [info@cooperativeswa.org.au](mailto:info@cooperativeswa.org.au).

## “C2C”

**“C2C” Shorthand for Co-operation among Co-operatives, the 6th Principle of Co-operation:** - Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative

movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures. Get involved with C2C and maximise your business advantage.

## Loans (Co-operative Companies) Act 2004 (WA) and Income Tax Assessment Act – Section 120(1)(c) (Cwth)

Is your company an “eligible co-operative” for the purposes of the Loans (Co-operative Companies) Act 2004? That is a co-operative company as defined in section 117 of the Income Tax Act that has as its primary object the acquisition of commodities or animals from its shareholders for disposal or distribution.

If so Division 9 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, and in particular section 120(1)(c) will be of interest to you. Want to read more, go to:

<http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/statutes/swans.nsf/AllinOne?OpenForm&Seq=1> and <http://law.ato.gov.au/atolaw/view.htm?docId=PAC/19360027/117>

## Co-operative College - Manchester UK

Chris Cooper, Co-operative College Director of Learning and Development, visited Perth in late November. Chris called on a number of Members to discuss director and senior management education and training. The College is working with co-operatives across Australia to roll out programs to equip Directors for their board role and to “train the trainers”.

The aim is to develop a joint Co-operatives WA/College training package that can be delivered in Perth during mid

2008 with presenters from the College making available their vast international experience in the process.

The Manchester based College has been working with Australian co-operatives following a visit to Perth by College Principal Mervyn Wilson to speak at the 2005 Co-operatives WA Annual Conference.

For more information on the College go to [www.co-op.ac.uk/vAndP\\_Australia2007.html](http://www.co-op.ac.uk/vAndP_Australia2007.html)

## Co-operatives WA Council

At the Council meeting on 7th December, Chris Enright, Chairman of the Mount Barker Co-operative was elected unopposed for a further term as Chairman of Council. Trent Bartlett, CEO of Capricorn was returned as Deputy Chairman. The following Committee appointments were also approved for 2008:

### Governance Committee

Bruce Ede (WMMCO) Chairman  
Trent Bartlett (Capricorn)  
Robin Judd (Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op)

### Membership & Education Committee

Rhys Turton (United Farmers Co-op) Chairman  
Garry Jacobs (Co-operative Purchasing Services)  
Wally Newman (CBH Group)  
Ed Garrett (Gascoyne Water)

Over the past year Trent Bartlett, Bruce Ede and Chris Enright have been members of the Industry Reference Group. David Woolfe and Terry Cunningham of the CBH Group have also assisted with the IRG. Council acknowledges and thanks all involved in the IRG process. With the Co-operatives Bill 2007 now tabled and awaiting debate, the role of the IRG has almost come to an end. The Membership & Education Committee is therefore assessing what needs to be done to assist members in transitioning into the new legislation once it is enacted.

## Annual Returns – April 2008

Assistance was provided to a number of Members who received queries from DOCEP over their 2007 Annual Return. Co-operatives WA has put forward a number of suggestions to DOCEP to reduce the reporting burden on co-operatives.

However, Members are encouraged to complete their 2008 Annual Return with

care and ensure the Return figures correspond with the audited financial statements lodged with the Annual Return. Care needs to be taken to ensure the full details of the directors are also set out in the Return. Check the Return carefully before lodging to avoid queries further down the track.

## Business Activities

Co-operatives WA members are involved in many areas of day to day business as outlined in the following table of broad activity groupings:

Retail (Food/Hardware/Agricultural)	Rural Services
Water Distribution and Asset Management	Farm Input Buying Groups
Member Inputs (Materials/Services)	Community Infrastructure Service Provider
Member Outputs (Marketing/Services)	Taxi Despatch Services

The size and depth of co-operative businesses is not as well known as it should be. Co-operatives WA is therefore working at a national level to lift the awareness of the contribution the sector makes to the economy and the wellbeing of members.

*Merry Christmas from Councillors and staff of Co-operatives WA*