

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS



JUNE 2006

Chris Enright elected Council Chairman

Chris Enright, Chairman of the Mt Barker Co-operative, and a farmer from Woogenellup, has been elected to the position of Chairman of Co-operatives WA.

Chris takes over from outgoing Chairman John Carstairs who stood down as the representative of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd on Co-operatives WA after 14 years service on Council and six years as Chairman.

“The Co-operative movement in WA turns over in excess of \$2 billion dollars annually and employs many thousands of workers across the state, from Kununurra in the north to Esperance in the south east, making a very valuable contribution to the state's economy.

New Councillor – Neil Wandel

Neil Wandel who has farming interests at Scadden in the Esperance region and was first elected to the CBH Board in 2002 became CBH's representative on Council on 16th June 2006.

“The role of Co-operatives WA in representing the interests of co-operative companies is very important. I look forward to leading the Council as we get closer to working with the government and non-government parties on a proposed Green Bill to modernise the legislation covering WA co-operatives. I am also keen to lift community awareness of the role and value of co-operatives in our city and regional communities,” said Mr Enright.

In accepting the position of Chairman, Chris paid tribute to the contribution John Carstairs has made to Co-operatives WA and welcomed to the Council Neil Wandel, Deputy Chairman of CBH.

Thanks and Appreciation John Carstairs

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the work of John Carstairs during his 14 years service.

International Day of Co-operatives

The International Day of Co-operatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year. Its aim is to increase awareness of co-operatives and promote the movement's successes and ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace. The International Day also aims to strengthen and extend partnerships between the international co-operative movement and other sectors, including governments, at local, national and international levels (*source International Co-operative Alliance*).

The International Co-operative Alliance first celebrated International Day in 1923. In 1994 the United Nations recognised and reaffirmed that co-operatives have an important role to play in economic, social and cultural development and proclaimed a UN International Day of Co-operatives in 1995, marking the centenary of the establishment of the ICA.

The theme for this year's joint ICA/UN International Day of Co-operatives is –

“Peace-Building through Co-operatives”

Go to www.ica.coop for more information on the International Co-operative Alliance

Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

The Annual Conference and AGM of Co-operatives WA has been brought forward this year. The Conference and AGM will take place on Friday 1st September. Please record the following details in your diary. Registration packs will be mailed late July/early August.

Provisional Program
Friday 1st September 2006
Australian Grains Centre
700 Abernethy Road, Forrestfield

10.00 – 12.00	Registration and Optional Tours *
12.00 – 1.00	Light Lunch
1.00 – 5.00	Opening and Welcome and Guest Speakers
5.00 – 5.30	Formal Co-operatives WA AGM
5.30	Official Close of Conference and adjourn to dinner venue

* Optional Tours

CBH Metro Grain Centre/Australian Grains Centre

The \$120 million Metro Grains Centre (MGC) was built in 1998 and is one of the most innovative and advanced grain receival, storage and distribution complexes in the world. It is strategically located close to domestic markets and processors, with road and rail access to Fremantle Port for container export and bulk shipping via the CBH grain terminal at Kwinana. The MGC is fully computerised and can store over 200,000 tonnes of grain. It has the ability to clean grain adding value to the product by preparing it for specialised markets.

One of the exciting initiatives of the CBH Group is construction of the Australian Grains Centre, a centre of excellence for grain technology at CBH's Metro Grain Centre (MGC) in Forrestfield, Perth.

The Centre provides the most advanced on-site grain testing facilities in Australia. It delivers enhanced grain analysis, quality control and research into storage methods and grain varieties. Customers are able to conduct on-site laboratory analyses at the Centre and staff provide them with training in the selection and processing of their product. This provides a unique competitive marketing edge for Western Australian growers.

Legislative Review Update

The much awaited Green Bill outlining the proposed legislation to replace the current Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943 is expected to be released for public comment during August. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection will provide each co-operative with a copy of the Green Bill and will also be convening public meetings in conjunction with Co-operatives WA to discuss the impact and timing of the proposed legislation.

Details of the public meetings will be announced at the time the Green Bill is made public.

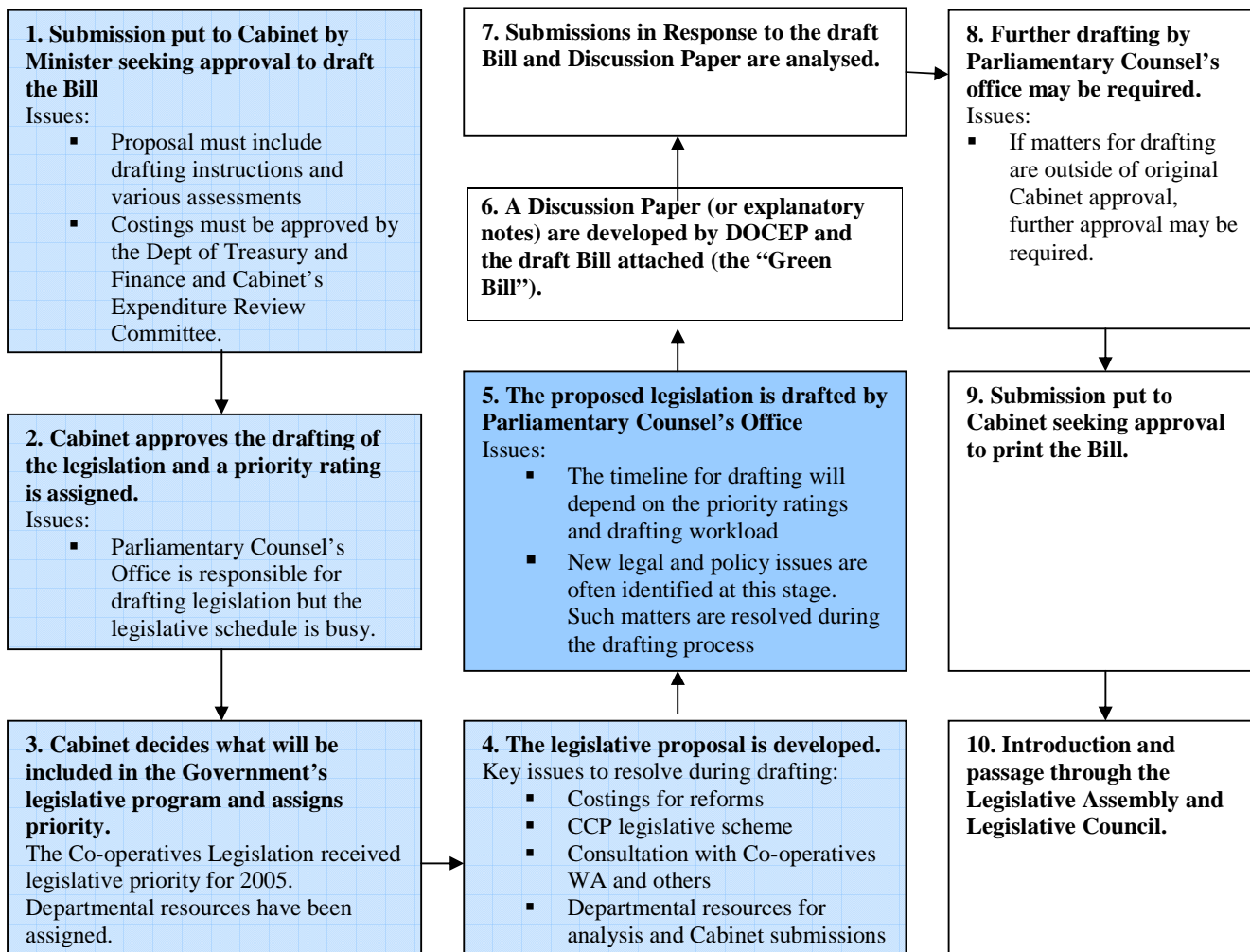
Members of Co-operatives WA will also have the opportunity to raise issues relating to the Green Bill at the Annual Conference. In the July 2005 Co-operatives WA Newsletter the Green Bill process was outlined and we have repeated the outline on the following page, updated to the current stage.

New Co-operatives Welcomed – Council extends a warm welcome to the following new Co-operatives:

- Mid West Farmers Co-operative Ltd
- MITS Co-operative Ltd
- Warren Valley Wine Co-operative Ltd

Process for Getting WA Co-operatives Legislation Drafted and Enacted

NOTE: This flow chart shows the legislative process for the development of a draft Co-operatives Bill to be released for public comment. The shaded boxes indicate that this part of the process has been achieved.



International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-government association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, ICA has 224 member organisations from 91 countries active in all sectors of the economy. Together these co-operatives represent more than 800 million individuals worldwide.

Notice to Readers – Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this Newsletter. However, no responsibility is accepted for any errors, or for views expressed, which may not necessarily reflect those of Co-operatives WA.