

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS

June 2010

Co-operatives Act 2009 - Proclamation getting closer!

Co-operatives WA has been working very closely with senior policy officers in the Department of Commerce on drafting regulations to support the Co-operatives Act 2009.

Proclamation of the Act is expected to take place during Q3.2010.

In addition to addressing policy issues, Co-operatives WA has been liaising with the Manager, Co-operatives Unit within the Consumer Affairs branch of the department on operational aspects of the new legislation. The co-operatives unit has also introduced a regular CoopsInfo Newsletter which is mailed to all co-operatives registered in Western Australia.

There is also an education program being rolled out with the Department and Co-operatives WA holding joint information sessions on the change over and transitional arrangements. These sessions are aimed at board and senior management as part of lifting awareness and understanding of what lays ahead for the leadership team within each co-operative.

The relationship between Co-operatives WA and both the Registrar's office and the Minister's policy officers has been very strong throughout the change process. This bodes well for the co-operative sector in Western Australia as we move forward.

Interactive Retail Co-operatives Workshop

During March directors and senior managers from 10 regional co-operatives participated in an all day workshop which focused on the particular needs of the larger retail co-operatives. As a sub-group within Co-operatives WA the larger retailers will be working together under the guidance of Co-operatives WA to minimise both the costs and administrative time that will be associated with transitioning from the 1943 Act to the 2009 legislation.

There will be a voluntary transition period of 21 months from the proclamation date which provides every co-operative with an excellent opportunity to review and update their current Articles and have them truly reflect how members want their co-operative positioned in their respective market place.

UPDATES:

2010

- Co-operatives Act to be proclaimed

2011

- Transition or be Transitioned

2012

- UN International Year of Co-operatives, and London Olympics
- Repeal of Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943

Legislation Hotlines

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Fabio Chaddad returns to Perth

Delegates to the Co-operatives WA 2009 Annual Conference will not be at all surprised to learn that Dr Fabio Chaddad from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Faculty of the University of Missouri, returned to Perth during the year to work with the board of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd on strategy development.

As the 2009 Conference Key Note Speaker, Dr Chaddad presented a comprehensive paper titled *Adapt or Die: Organizational Changes in Cooperatives* which outlined issues around strategic planning. Fabio highlighted the need for co-operatives to have both the will and the capacity to deal with external influences that had the potential to threaten the co-operative's business.



Valuing Co-operation

Co-operatives WA, in collaboration with its fellow Co-operatives Australia members, has recently released a paper on *Valuing Co-operation*.

Valuing Co-operation addresses the importance of recognising that demutualisation is not an inevitable pathway for co-operatives with viable alternatives available. Giving up member ownership changes the business structure for ever.

People so often don't fully understand the value of something until it is no longer there. For co-operatives, once member ownership

is taken away there is no second chance. Member control will be gone forever, the damage caused will be permanent and what was touted as the only solution so often produces nothing but disappointment.

The following comment lifted from Fabio Chaddad's presentation to the Co-operatives WA Annual Conference in 2009, typifies a number of corporatisations / demutualisations.

"The money has come home...but farmers have now to face an absolute clash of cultures with the PLC. This is a hard lesson for some members who thought that the market would look after them..."

The following papers can be downloaded from

www.cooperativeswa.org.au

- Valuing Co-operation
- Co-operative Education
- Public Policy and Co-operatives

Vision and Values

Co-operative Vision and Values are what clearly distinguish member owned business from investor-driven companies.

With co-operatives needing to transition from the 1943 Act to the Co-operatives Act 2009 it is an excellent opportunity for every board to include in that process, a review of their co-operative's vision and values.

Co-operatives WA Vision

***To be the centre of excellence
and leading authority on the
co-operative movement
in Australia.***

Annual Conference

The Hon Bill Marmion MLA, Minister for Commerce; Science and Innovation; Housing; Minister Assisting the Treasurer will open this year's Co-operatives Conference, on Wednesday 15th September at Technology Park Function Centre, Bentley.

The official 2010 Conference Dinner will be at The Squatters Inn Restaurant, Windsor Lodge, Preston St, Como.

Windsor Lodge will offer conference delegates needing accommodation attractive room only, or bed and breakfast rates. Book into Windsor Lodge and enjoy a drink with your fellow delegates without having to drive home.

Windsor Lodge

Tel: (08) 9367 9177

Fax: (08) 9474 1006

www.windsorlodge.com.au

Conference details:

Wednesday

15th September 2010

Technology Park Function
Centre

Brodie Hall Drive

BENTLEY WA

Starting at 9.30am

UN proclaims 2012 International Year of Co-operatives

The United Nations has designated 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives and called on governments, international institutions, co-operatives and other stakeholders to support the development and growth of co-operatives world-wide.

Plans are underway to use IYC2012 to promote and educate people about the role of co-operatives in commerce as well as the community.

Co-operatives and co-operation can take many forms with evidence emerging that co-operatives weather the GFC better than a lot of its competitors.

International Day of Co-operatives 3rd July 2010

The first Saturday in July is always International Day of Co-operatives. Each year the day is given a theme with the 2010 being "Co-operative enterprise empowers women".

Co-operatives contribute to the improvement of the economic, social and cultural situation of all genders, but more so for women in many developing economies around the world.



Statement of Corporate Intent

Federation Council recently adopted the following revised Statement of Corporate Intent as part of its regular review of activities undertaken by Co-operatives WA on behalf of members.

Purpose:

1. Represent the interest of members.
2. Promote co-operative vision and values and the co-operative business model.
3. Promote the co-operative sector's significant contribution to the economy and the community.

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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