



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Progressive Broadcasting Service Co-operative Ltd

Meeting held Wednesday 29 November 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by the Chair, Lauren O'Dwyer (LOD)

### Present and Apologies

**Present:** Di Crowther, Paul Cuthbert, Robert Eames, Kenneth John Fargher, Suzi Hutchings, Phillip MacDougall, Paul Maybury, Fiona McNally, Lauren O'Dwyer, Myes O'Neil-Shaw, David Patterson, Chris Pearson, Kieran Rivett, Bill Runting, Jurgen Schaub, Tom Sianidis, Jeremy Philip Cragie Smith, Ian Stanistreet, Chris Sweetnam, Lucy Tehan, Lyndelle Wilkinson, Mara Williams, Gavin Younger, Kristen Paterson, Kayley Langdon, Julie Enzerink.

**Apologies:** Jan Dale, John Maizels, Sam Goldie, Garry Havrillay, Susan Seven Weikart, Helen Jennings, Peter Boyle, Mike Glover, Jenny Britt, Maddy Macfarlane.

### Welcome

LOD welcomed all attendees and acknowledged country. LOD is a Yorta Yorta woman. LOD acknowledged traditional owners, the Wurundjeri Woiewurrung people, and paid respect to elders past and present. She introduced current board member Suzi Hutchings, a Central Arrernte woman, and spoke to the importance of First Nations arts and culture.

### Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of 2022 AGM (held November 2022) reviewed.

*Motion to accept: LOD Seconded: Jurgen Schaub*

*Majority in favour of acceptance by show of hands*

### Chair's Report

LOD directed the meeting to the published *Annual Report*.

She acknowledged the significant contribution of former Chair Jurgen Schaub who recently resigned from the Board, including his delivery of the new strategic plan and his work on the Tech Advisory subcommittee. LOD thanked Jurgen for his ongoing work and commitment to PBS.

LOD acknowledged Kristen Paterson for her work in her first full year as General Manager, She thanked Kristen and all PBS staff and volunteers for their efforts over the year, including the move to Collingwood Yards, relaunching Studio 5, new content platforms, and the National Film and Sound Archive partnership.

LOD also thanked Ian Stanistreet for his ongoing support in implementing the strategic plan.

LOD referred to recent changes to the Board member nomination process aimed at enhancing transparency and accessibility, such as the skills matrix and providing nominees the option of submitting a pre-recorded video message to the AGM.

She spoke to some of the key priorities in 2024 aligned to the strategic plan, including initiatives to increase participation and encourage new shareholders.

LOD noted the importance of community radio, acknowledging the challenge ahead as media and platforms continue to evolve. She thanked shareholders for their contribution to the strategic plan and encouraged them to embrace change, be brave, and foster culture of trust in its implementation.

## **Committee Reports**

### **General Manager's Report**

Kristen Paterson provided a report on the work at the station over the past year. She referred to the many 'firsts' including the extensive audio and video content from weekly Studio 5 Live sessions, the Studio 3 sessions, and the compilation of PBS recorded live music.

Kristen thanked the team of PBS staff and volunteers for their contribution across the year. She noted in particular their hard work during Radio Festival which had enabled the station to produce a good financial result.

Kristen acknowledged the consultation and feedback received from shareholders and the broader PBS community in the development of the strategic plan. She also thanked members of the Board.

### **2023 Annual Report including Audited Accounts**

The Treasurer Kieran Rivett (KR) took the financial report included in the *Annual Report* as read.

KR noted FY23 involved some anomalies: the move to Collingwood Yards and the FY22 COVID impacts which continue to be felt. He spoke to the FY2023 forecast focus on cash flow and moving away from capex and donations.

He referred to the revenue decrease in donations (down 55% FY23) which was anticipated. Notably, membership revenue almost the same in FY23 as FY22, with 60% overall revenue in FY23 from members. Cash flow was the target for FY23 and given the station had some unplanned expenses and additional IT and broadcasting costs that weren't forecast, a good outcome that we maintained cash flow.

KR thanked Kristen and Rom Shuttleworth for their work in preparing the financial report and throughout the year.

*Motion to accept financial report: Moved Kieran Rivett, seconded Robert Eames*

*Majority in favour of acceptance by show of hands*

### **Election of external auditors**

KR proposed that E F McPhail and Partners be appointed for a further term as external auditors. For next FY, consideration to be given to seeking new external provider via tender process. The Board will seek endorsement from shareholders at the next AGM for any proposed new auditor.

*Moved Kieran, seconded Chris Pearson*

*Majority in favour of acceptance by show of hands*

### **Election of Directors**

There were four two-year board vacancies to be filled and two one-year board vacancies.

Four nominations had been received for the four two-year terms – Lauren O'Dwyer, Kieran Rivett, Fiona McNally and Claire Stuchbery. An election was therefore required for these positions.

Two nominations had been received for the one-year positions – Suzi Hutchings and Elise Beacom.

Each nominee was invited to speak for two minutes after which time a ballot was held for the two-year positions.

Each nominee was elected to their nominated board positions unopposed.

### **General Discussion**

The Chair then invited comments and questions.

There was a question about the station's position on Gaza and the role of community broadcasters in discussing sensitive or political issues.

There were questions about how to get younger audiences involved in the station. The Chair and GM discussed the key goals and outputs of the strategic plan, the focus on expanding audience reach, including establishing a youth advisory committee, partnerships with Collingwood College for example.

There was a question about reinstating the honour board at the new studios.

*Meeting closed at 8:17 pm*