

# Open Letter in Response to Andrew Macaulay's email dated 7 July 2022

External

Inbox



**Cattle Producers Australia** <admin@cattleproducers.com.au> | 15, 11:24 AM  
(3 days ago)

to Andrew, Jackie, Troy, Gillian, Lisa, Lloyd, Geoff, Paul, Cameron, Mick, Paul, Paul, Michael, John

Dear Andrew and RSC Members

As members of the Restructure Steering Committee (RSC) we respond to Andrew Macaulay's email (below) dated 7 July 2022 advising that the RSC was wound up at 3 pm on 30 June.

Andrew Macaulay's assertion does not align with discussions and agreements at the face-to-face meeting held in Brisbane 10 June 2022 where it was agreed to have a detailed ongoing process to establish Cattle Australia, nor does it align with the RSC meeting held 27 June 2022, the Constitutional Meeting dated 17 June 2022 (attached), or the provisions of item 7 of the Grass-fed Cattle Industry Restructure Steering Committee Terms of Reference (attached) which states that:

*7. The Steering Committee will convene on and from October 2021 and will cease to exist when the New Peak Body Board is installed.*

A proposal was put to the face-to-face meeting in Brisbane 10 June 2022 by the CCA and SFO members of the RSC, that the RSC be wound up on 30 June 2022. This was not accepted, and it was agreed that the RSC maintain its position until the new organisation is established.

As can be seen from the attached transcript of the relevant recorded discussion at the most recent RSC Constitutional Subcommittee meeting dated 17 June 22, there was no mention of winding up the RSC. At that meeting we discussed the two organisational options in relation to the company structure and it was agreed that Norman Hunt would provide further information on this matter from the Department (see attached: Options to structure Cattle Australia document). This information was forwarded to the RSC on 24 June 2022.

Andrew Macaulay's 7 July 2022 email to the RSC suggesting that the RSC was wound up at 3 pm on 30 June 2022 is also inconsistent with the fact that both RSC Constitutional Meeting held 17 June 2022 and the RSC Meeting 27 June 2022 planned to arrange follow-up meetings to discuss further Cattle Australia constitutional and RSC procedural matters.

As can be seen from the attached email that was forwarded by Paul Wright and Cameron McIntyre at 11.04 am on 7 July 2022 to the RSC, the draft Cattle Australia Constitution has many errors still to be corrected and has not been finalised or accepted by the RSC.

A summary of a number of outstanding Cattle Australia constitutional issues of concern is also attached and further matters of concern about the RSC process to date will be forwarded to you all in due course.

The \$500,000 Commonwealth Government grant, underpinned by a Procurement Agreement, along with funds contributed by cattle industry participants was made available to the RSC for the purpose of the RSC reaching agreement upon a sustainable representative and resourcing model for a reformed peak industry council.

We are committed to meeting our obligations to the Terms of Reference and the other agreements that provide instructions on the delivery of the RSC responsibilities and draw your attention to matters pertaining to the \$500,000 grant and the financial reporting requirements to the RSC and request a detailed report of all expenses and outstanding balances of that grant.

Expenditure of RSC public and private funding to achieve RSC goals as outlined in the RSC Terms of Reference was agreed to be administered through CCA under an Auspice Agreement between RSC and CCA. All expenditure was to be ratified by the RSC. Persistent requests to the RSC Independent Chair to produce the required documentation was unproductive, a consequence of which is the fact that no RSC ratification of RSC funds expended by CCA has occurred.

Andrew Macaulay's stated intentions at the ILF meeting on 30 June 2022 to disband the RSC, to transfer the responsibility for finalising the Cattle Australia Constitution, to oversee the conducting of Cattle Australia representative elections, and to manage the transition of Peak Industry Council status from CCA to Cattle Australia appear to be contrary to the stipulations in the Terms of Reference of the RSC, and contrary to normal principles of due process and accountable governance and were not and are not agreed to by us.

Vital issues with regard to sustainable Cattle Australia funding options, Cattle Australia Board and Cattle Australia Policy Council electorates and elections remain unresolved by the RSC. These issues are central to the potential effectiveness of Cattle Australia and their resolution is the responsibility of the RSC. This is what the RSC was tasked with and funded to achieve.

Neither the content of the current draft of the Cattle Australia Constitution nor the determination to hand the implementation process over to CCA have been approved by the RSC.

To meet its obligations under its Terms of Reference and Funding agreements the RSC must continue in its role to develop, to the satisfaction of a majority of levy payers, a sustainably resourced and truly representative Cattle Australia as the cattle producers' national peak industry council and account for the public and private funding entrusted to it to achieve this objective.

Kind regards

***Dr Paul Wright***  
***"Woongarra"***

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cc. Paul Denny  
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Meredith Paynter

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**From:** Andrew Macaulay <[Andrew.Macaulay@dorade.com.au](mailto:Andrew.Macaulay@dorade.com.au)>  
**Date:** 7 July 2022 at 4:30:21 pm AEST  
**To:** Troy Setter <[troy.setter@pastoral.com](mailto:troy.setter@pastoral.com)>, Mick Hewitt <[mick@hewittcattle.com.au](mailto:mick@hewittcattle.com.au)>, Cameron McIntyre <[mcintyremtbooroomen@bigpond.com](mailto:mcintyremtbooroomen@bigpond.com)>, Paul Wright <[paulwright4420@outlook.com](mailto:paulwright4420@outlook.com)>, Alice Greenup <[admin@greenup.com.au](mailto:admin@greenup.com.au)>, Geoff Pearson <[lakepreston@twpearson.com](mailto:lakepreston@twpearson.com)>, Lloyd Hick <[lloydhick@bigpond.com](mailto:lloydhick@bigpond.com)>, Lisa Sharpe <[lsharp@herefordsaustralia.com.au](mailto:lsharp@herefordsaustralia.com.au)>, Gillian Fennell <[gillian@morestonecontracting.com](mailto:gillian@morestonecontracting.com)>  
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**Subject:** RSC: Thank you, wind up & next steps

Dear RSC

I would like to warmly thank all of you for your time, participation and engagement on the Restructure Steering Committee over the past 8 months. Whilst I acknowledge there have been areas of disagreement this has been far outweighed by the many areas of agreement, leading to the firm foundations which are now in place for the advent of the new democratic peak body representing the

grass-fed cattle sector - Cattle Australia. Each and every one of you have played an integral role in this generational reform agenda, and I thank you.

The draft Cattle Australia Constitution developed by King Wood & Mallesons incorporates the feedback received by the RSC and has now been handed to CCA so they can commence consultation with their members, prior to member endorsement of the constitution at a special general meeting scheduled for September 2022. Once the constitution is endorsed, CCA will hand over its assets and responsibilities to Cattle Australia at its Annual General Meeting in late November 2022

The RSC wound up at 3pm on 30 June, with our report to the ILF, and subsequent handover of draft constitution, committee material, IP, and records to CCA on 1 July.

CCA have advised me that they will be inviting all RSC members to have an ongoing consultative role leading up to the AGM, by their participation in fortnightly briefings from the CCA Board Restructure Steering Committee. CCA will be sending out subsequent communication to you on this role in the coming week.

I'd also like to acknowledge the diligence and discipline that Jackie has displayed in her role as secretariat and on behalf of the RSC thank her for her efforts.

Once again, I would like to commend you all for your diligence and commitment and wish you all the very best.

I thank you all for the privilege of assisting this process, and wish you all well.

Sincerely,  
Andrew