

## **Outdoor Council of Australia Presidents Report 2019/20**

Although the phrasing is beginning to feel a bit over used, this past year has indeed presented the Outdoor Sector and the OCA with “unprecedented” challenges. The catastrophic bushfire season commencing so soon in many parts followed by the Covid-19 pandemic have placed previously unthinkable demands on our sector and all constituents.

In response to these very challenging events, I am proud to have had the privilege to support the OCA as President and Chair. The commitment to increased frequency of meetings, level of sharing and collaboration as well as the ongoing comradery between members has been a credit to all. I believe together we have moved the OCA to a re-energised place in which all constituents have a better understanding of the importance of the power of working together.

Throughout the year past we have continued to challenge our position on two major project pieces: UPLOADS and NOLRS. The Board has had many robust conversations, consulted broadly and is now able to move forward with increased clarity and purpose around each of these. The decision to commence winding up of NOLRS has not been reached lightly and I must acknowledge the enormous time and effort of many over the years of the scheme, in particular Phil Harrison who has contributed so much over many years. Thanks also go to CVA for the administration of the scheme more recently.

Great thanks also go to the teams at Outdoors SA and QORF. SA for the incredible effort in providing secretarial and administrative functions and QORF for tending the finances. Without such significant pro-bono input the OCA would not be in a position to exist.

Along with much letter writing, the creation of sector statements, response documents and opportunities for members to connect and share have been significant achievements for the OCA this year.

The OCA financial situation remains challenging as constituent bodies may likely be less able to increase their contributions in coming years. I strongly encourage the Board to consider the structural and hence financial challenges incorporation places on the OCA and perhaps seek an alternate way of gathering as a very pro-active network of peaks working for the betterment of the whole sector.

It has been an honour to serve this Board and I have very much enjoyed making new friend sin the process. Now that my Board term has concluded I look forward to future opportunities at conferences and events etc. to catch up over a Beveridge for an update on OCA progress.

Andrew McGuckian

President OCA