



Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Senator for Tasmania

M E D I A R E L E A S E

World-class AFMA to welcome new acting leader to the helm

The agency responsible for the sustainable management of Commonwealth fisheries, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), has today farewelled their CEO, and has welcomed a new acting leader.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, thanked outgoing AFMA CEO, James Findlay and welcomed Anna Willock to head the authority.

“James has done an exceptional job at the helm of AFMA over the past eight years, ensuring that Australia continues to be a global leader in fisheries management,” Minister Colbeck said.

“James worked effectively to balance the interests of commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishers, environmental and marine stakeholders, regional and global institutions and policy agencies from all Australian fishing jurisdictions, leaving our Commonwealth fisheries in excellent condition.

“For the fifth year in a row, not a single fishery managed solely by the Commonwealth is subject to overfishing, which sets a shining example of effective fisheries management internationally.

“Our fish stocks are sustainably harvested with domestic and international consumers enjoying safe, high-quality Australian seafood sourced from flourishing marine ecosystems.

“I would like to express my gratitude to James for his leadership and commitment to a sustainable fishing industry, and wish him well in his new appointment to Parks Australia.

“I’m pleased to welcome Anna Willock as AFMA’s acting CEO to carry on this important work, including leading our world-class fisheries management policy.

“The authority is in safe hands, with Anna bringing 20 years’ experience in fisheries management conservation and regulation, across national, regional and international positions.

“She comes across from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, where she has been leading the department’s Biotechnology, Dairy and Levies Policy branch.”

A selection process is underway to identify the new permanent AFMA CEO, and is expected to be finalised in early 2019.

For more information on the important work AFMA does please visit:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/>.

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