Our ref: CORP F2019/000158

5 June 2019

Mr Peter Malinauskas MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Malinauskas

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) on 22 March 2019, seeking access to the following:

> *"Since 17 March 2018, copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical, electronic, or written briefs, minutes, emails, diary entries and any other correspondence) that are related to the process by which an election was to be conducted for members of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, including; 1. The appointment of Horizon State to process registration of voters 2. Payments to Horizon State 3. Advantages and/or risks associated with blockchain technology in the election process. 4. Reports of the election process, updates and results."*

> *Timeframe: 17/03/2018 to 22/03/2019*

On 29 March 2019, contact was made with your office by PIRSA's Freedom of Information and Privacy Officer seeking clarification and refinement of your application. Following negotiations with your office, on 23 April 2019 it was confirmed that you are seeking access to the following:

> *"Since 17 March 2018, copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical, electronic, or written briefs, minutes, emails, diary entries and any other correspondence) that are related to the process by which an election was conducted for members of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, specifically;*

> 1. *The appointment of Horizon State to process registration of voters*
> 2. *Payments to Horizon State*
> 3. *Advantages and/or risks associated with blockchain technology in the election process*
> 4. *Any general summary of the election process."*

> *Timeframe: 17/03/2018 to 22/03/2019*

Your application was placed on hold from 29 March 2019 for a period of twenty-five days until negotiations on the clarification and refinement of the request were confirmed. Accordingly, pursuant with the Freedom of Information Act, the timeframe in which to provide a determination was revised to 16 May 2019. I apologise for the subsequent delay in responding.

The following determination has been finalised.

I have located eight documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Email thread between Horizon State, S Thomas (DPC), K Rowling (PIRSA) dated 5/11/2018 and 6/11/2018 re Horizon State – DPC: Voting Results Algorithm	2
8	Email from C Brissenden (PIRSA) to K Rowling (PIRSA) dated 22/3/2019 re draft media release – MRFAC individual nominations announcement	3

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
5	Email from S Thomas (DPC) to K Rowling (PIRSA), S Sloan (PIRSA), C Brissenden (PIRSA) dated 19/2/2019 re MRFAC online voting update	6
6	Email thread between S Bray (Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development), S Thomas (DPC), K Rowling (PIRSA) dated 27/2/2019 and 1/3/2019 re MRFAC Voting Announcement	2
7	Emails between S Thomas (DPC) and K Rowling (PIRSA) dated 14/3/2019 and 18/3/2019 re MRFAC election counting methodology	2

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

> **"6 - Documents affecting personal affairs**
> *(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."*

The information removed from the above documents consist of the mobile phone and landline numbers of some staff. It is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	Email thread between K Rowling (PIRSA), G Fairlamb (DPC), S Thomas (DPC) dated 16/10/2018 to 5/11/2018 re MRFAC – YourSAy and voting	3

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 7(1)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

> *"7 – Documents affecting business affairs*
> *(1) A document is an exempt document –*
> *(c)   if it contains matter –*
> *(i)   consisting of information (other than trade secrets or information referred to in paragraph (b)) concerning the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of any agency or any other person; and*
> *(ii) the disclosure of which –*
> *(A)   could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on those affairs or to prejudice the future supply of such information to the Government or to an agency; and*
> *(B)   would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest"*

In addressing the public interest test requirement for this exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the budget spending and decision-making processes of Government.

Contrary to the public interest:

- Disclosure of this information would reveal the pricing structure of the costs of providing the nominated works to the government. Knowledge of this information would place the companies concerned at commercial disadvantage against its competitors.
- If this information was released, the companies would be reluctant to transact and provide such information to PIRSA and other government agencies in the future. It could also be expected that other companies with the knowledge of such disclosure would avoid interacting with PIRSA.

- Disclosure of this information would have the potential to harm business relationships with PIRSA and hamper future dealings with the agency for the betterment of South Australia.

I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Determination 4

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email thread between S Bray (Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development), C Brissenden (PIRSA), S Tyson (DPC), P Dietman (PIRSA) dated 15/10/2018 to 19/10/2018 re YourSAy: Recreational fishing body	5
4	Email thread between S Thomas (DPC) and S Sloan (PIRSA) dated 27/11/2018 to 18/12/2018 re Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council	6

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) and Clause 7(1)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

With respect to the Clause 6(1) exemption, the information removed consists of the mobile phone and landline numbers of some staff. It is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

With regard to the Clause 7 exemption, the information removed consists of the breakdown of costs.

In addressing the public interest test requirement for this exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the budget spending and decision-making processes of Government.

Contrary to the public interest:

- Disclosure of this information would reveal the pricing structure of the costs of providing the nominated works to the government. Knowledge of this information would place the companies concerned at commercial disadvantage against its competitors.

- If this information was released, the companies would be reluctant to transact and provide such information to PIRSA and other government agencies in the future. It could also be expected that other companies with the knowledge of such disclosure would avoid interacting with PIRSA.
- Disclosure of this information would have the potential to harm business relationships with PIRSA and hamper future dealings with the agency for the betterment of South Australia.

I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

In addressing point 4 of your application, please refer to the information contained within the following links:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/community_engagement/ministers_recreational_fishing_advisory_council

http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/fishing

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation, by completing the "Application for Review of Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Primary Industries and Regions SA
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Freedom of Information and Privacy Officer on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Deanna Fleming
Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS SA

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent:	Tuesday, 6 November 2018 9:47 AM
To:	Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Cc:	Fairlamb, Gail (DPC); Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA); Dietman, Peter (PIRSA)
Subject:	RE: Horizon State - DPC : Voting Results Algorithm

Hi Sarah

It would be good to get the briefing through with the costs/benefits and timing before progressing further with this. I have progressed it following your comments, and will keep you informed of the process.

Notwithstanding this, if there are 50 candidates, suggest 5 female, 10 tackle and 10 inland with 25 others as a mock up.

On the second part, suggest DPC liaise directly with Simon/Sara regarding voting/counting, noting the briefing that is being prepared.

Regards
Keith

**Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA**
P: +61 8 8429 0513 | M: + 61 437 675 573 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au

From: Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 November 2018 9:30 AM
To: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Horizon State - DPC : Voting Results Algorithm

Hi both

Are you happy to put together a dummy list for the candidates including an indication of how many candidates would identify with each of the categories – I think Sara's expectations were 50 candidates in total.

How would you like to progress the request for the detailed voting/counting information – I think Simon and Sara had a clear idea on how they wanted the votes to be weighted and counted, do you want us to progress this with them or would you like to manage that?

Cheers
Sarah

From: Ziv Himmelfarb [mailto:ziv.himmelfarb@horizonstate.com]
Sent: 05 November 2018 17:22
To: Nimo Naamani <nimo.naamani@horizonstate.com>; Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Horizon State - DPC : Voting Results Algorithm

Thanks Nimo!

Hi everyone,

As Nimo mentioned I'll be in charge of modelling the information you provide about candidates, and making sure we calculate the results correctly. In order to achieve that, would it be possible to:

1. Get a list of candidates, along with their relevant attributes (tackle shop, woman, etc.). This doesn't have to be a final list or even a real one, I just want to get a feel for the structure and attributes. Happy for this to be a spreadsheet or anything else you have.
2. Get a description of how votes should be counted and results should be calculated. I've watched the video you've linked to in a previous email and I think I got the basics. Would be great to have an elaborate description which includes the attributes of the candidates that you want to play part, as well as weights. Not looking for any fancy document, any layman explanation will do.

Thank you and looking forward to hearing back from you.

Ziv Himmelfarb.

Hi all,
It is my pleasure to introduce Ziv- Horizon State's Data Specialist.

Ziv will be the person in charge of making sure Horizon State's system meets the requirements the fisheries vote has with regards to collecting the relevant data attributes for the candidates and developing the code to calculate the results, taking into consideration the weights required for the various criteria.

Please initiate the conversation around defining and finalising the calculation method.

Regards,
Nimo

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA)
Sent:	Friday, 22 March 2019 2:06 PM
To:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Subject:	20190325 Media release DRAFT - Premier and Minister Whetstone - MRFAC indiv nominations announce.docx
Attachments:	20190325 Media release DRAFT - Premier and Minister Whetstone - MRFAC indiv nominations announce.docx

Revised, clean copy that I'll send to Sean, FYI.

Media release DRAFT for Premier and Minister Whetstone

Monday 25 March 2019

Final lineup for the new Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council announced

Another election commitment has been met today with the announcement of five individual representatives to the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

Premier Steven Marshall said that the government's commitment to refreshing representation for recreational fishers has been achieved through a transparent, open consultation and voting process.

"I'm delighted to announce today the five individual representatives elected by the fishing public, to complete the nine-member Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council," said Premier Marshall.

"Shane Mensforth, David Scholefield, Amanda Whitehorn, Peter Teakle and Brian Wheadon will join four appointed recreational fishing organisation representatives to provide feedback and advice to government on recreational fishing development, initiatives and big picture policy issues that impact the sector.

"The voting process has been transparent and historic - for the first time in South Australian Government history, Blockchain technology was used for the voting process. Blockchain is an exciting emerging technology which is extremely secure and already used all over the world to perform valuable transactions."

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said that voting was done using the preferential method and counted using the proportional representation model.

"By ensuring votes flowed through a preferential system, each vote has counted," said Minister Whetstone.

"I thank all the candidates who put their hand up and nominated, and every recreational fisher who voted – you have made your voice heard, and these five individuals will represent you on the Council.

"I am looking forward to working with all nine members to further our commitment to South Australia's diverse and active recreational fishery to improve the fishing experience."

MRFAC members

Shane Mensforth

David Scholefield

Amanda Whitehorn

Peter Teakle – inland fisher

Brian Wheadon - representing the tackle sector

Tracey Tito - representing FishinSA and the South Australian Fishing Alliance

John Thomas - representing FishinSA

Ian Fitzgerald - representing RecFish SA

Graham Keegan - representing the South Australian Fishing Alliance

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Sent:	Tuesday, 19 February 2019 9:37 AM
To:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA); Sloan, Sean (PIRSA); Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA)
Cc:	Balan-Vnuk, Eva (DPC)
Subject:	MRFAC online voting update

Hi all

I'm pleased to report that Day 1 of the MRFAC online voting went very smoothly. As at 8am today, we have received 171 votes. The announcement was picked up by a couple of media outlets– see links below. I believe it was also reported on in the Stock Journal and has been shared on Twitter.

https://micky.com.au/blockchain-technology-used-by-south-australian-government-to-conduct-election/
https://www.miragenews.com/voting-now-open-for-recreational-fishing-council/

Best regards
Sarah

Sarah Thomas
Head of Strategic Engagement
Office for Digital Government
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

M ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
e sarah.thomas3@sa.gov.au | **W** yoursay.sa.gov.au

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Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

Blockchain technology used by South Australian Government to conduct election

By Micky News · February 18, 2019

In an Australian first, the South Australian Government will conduct an official election using a blockchain-based voting system.

UPDATE 9:45pm AEDT:

Micky News has confirmed blockchain company, Horizon State, has been contracted by the South Australia Government to provide the technology and support for the blockchain-based election.

"This is an exciting first government use of our tech in Australia, and a great way to validate the blockchain use for this purpose, Horizon State CEO, Nimo Naamani told *Micky*.

"This is also a complex vote – being preferential with reserved seats, and a large cohort of candidates to choose from.

"The South Australian government is very forward thinking and we are honoured they chose us to provide the technology. This, to me, shows their commitment to innovation, transparency and responsible use of government funds."

In the past year Horizon State has made significant inroads into
blockchain voting adoption.

The Democratic Party of India announced it will use Horizon State's
blockchain technology to consult Indian citizens before determining
its policy positions.

In New Zealand, The Opportunity Party, used Horizon State's blockchain
voting system to conduct a leadership election in December.

EARLIER STORY:

The State Government is using blockchain technology to elect 5 people
to the state's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

45 candidates have nominated for the election, with blockchain voting
opening today.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has been committed to an open,
transparent process in establishing a new representative body for
recreational fishers in South Australia," said Tim Whetstone, the Minister
for Primary Industries.

"For the first time in South Australian Government history, the election
will be conducted using Blockchain technology.

"Blockchain is an exciting emerging technology which is extremely
secure and already used all over the world to perform valuable
transactions."

The blockchain voting technology has been integrated into the state's
online polling website.

South Australia bullish on blockchain

South Australia's premier, Steven Marshall, says he wants South Australia to be the "blockchain capital of the country".

"We believe blockchain is going to be important into the future as we manage global supply chains," Marshall told local publication InDaily.

South Australia Premier, Steven Marshall, believes the state can benefit from blockchain innovation.

In October last year *Micky revealed* South Australia had received Federal Government support for the development of a 'blockchain hive', within a massive innovation hub, being built at the site of an old hospital in the state's capital, Adelaide.

Click here to read *Micky's* article about the Adelaide blockchain hive.

In another blockchain move, the South Australian Government is collaborating with the Australian Davos Connection Forum to host an international Blockchain Summit in Adelaide in March, which will explore the potential of blockchain technology.

GET BREAKING NEWS EVERY WEEK – _Subscribe to Micky_

MIRAGE news

> LATEST NEWS   Man faces further charges as part of North Canterbury burglary investigation   Zorita banner conservation at Bay

National   FEBRUARY 18, 2019 3:27 PM AEST   Share   Twitt

Voting now open for recreational fishing council

Voting is now open to elect the final five
individual members of the new Minister's
Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

There are 42 candidates from all over the state
up for election to fill the five positions. There are
already four appointed members who represent
key recreational fishing organisations.

Of the five individual member positions at least
one will be female, one an inland fisher and at
least one person representing the tackle sector.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional
Development Tim Whetstone said anyone interested in the future of the state's recreational fishing s
their vote.

"There are 42 diverse candidates, from across the state, who have put their hand up to be considere
Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council," said Minister Whetstone.

"I commend those candidates and thank them for putting themselves forward as potential member
Council. The formation of the Council is delivery of another election commitment for the Marshall Li
Government and the elected members will provide feedback and advice to me on all recreational fis
and opportunities before the sector."

For the first time in South Australian Government history, the election will be conducted using Block
technology. Blockchain is an exciting emerging technology which is extremely secure and already us
the world to perform valuable transactions.

Voting will be done using the preferential method and counted using the proportional representatio

Minister Whetstone encourage recreational fishers to make their voices heard about who they want
representing them.

"I now urge everyone who is interested in recreational fishing in South Australia to visit the YourSAy
read the candidate profiles, and vote for their preferred candidates," said Minister Whetstone.

"Voting is open for a month – from midday 18 February to midday 18 March – and I look forward to I
announce the successful appointees when the results are in."

For more information and to vote, visit www.yourSAy.sa.gov.au/fishing

The South Australian Government is collaborating with the Australian Davos Connection Forum to h
International Blockchain Summit in Adelaide from 18-20 March 2019 to explore the potential of Bloc
technology further. Details are available at: https://www.adcblockchain.org/

/Public News. View in full *here*.

Tags: AusPol, Aussie, Australia, Australian, blockchain, council, elected, election, future, Government
Government, South Australia, visit, website, world

Buy us a coffee <u>Why?</u>

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent:	Friday, 1 March 2019 9:24 AM
To:	Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Subject:	RE: MRFAC Voting Announcement

Hi Sarah

Further to our discussion yesterday, draft email for considering sending to the Ministers office, following consideration of the Executive Directors.

Regards
Keith

Hi Sara/Simon

Further to this email and discussions with Simon, DPC and PIRSA provide the following advice regarding timing for the MRFAC voting process.

- Given the innovative nature of the online voting, use of Blockchain and proportional counting additional verification is required to ensure the process has the level of integrity that is required to ensure a defendable outcome.
- DPC will be independently verifying the algorithm that has been designed to meet the counting requirements.
- In addition to this, due to the innovative nature of the process it will also be prudent to manually count the votes to verify the results before any public announcement.
- DPC are putting additional resources into this process, including liaising with the AEC regarding the manual count, to ensure the results are defendable and fit for purpose.

Consistent with this, an announcement on the vote result will not be possible until 25 March 2019, which still meets the timelines outlined in the Candidates Handbook and previously discussed through the process.

Regards
Sarah

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
P: +61 8 8429 0513 | M: + 61 437 675 573 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au

From: Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 1:39 PM
To: Bray, Sara (PIRSA) <Sara.Bray@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Balan-Vnuk, Eva (DPC) <Eva.Balan-Vnuk@sa.gov.au>; Sloan, Sean (PIRSA) <Sean.Sloan@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE:

Hi Sara

We were working towards an announcement of the winners by April to allow time to verify the counting and address any anomalies and if necessary default to a manual count.

While I don't expect we will need the full two weeks, we will need to allow at least a week from the close of the vote.

1

Best regards
Sarah

Hi Sarah,

Just touching base to see if we are safe to book in the Rec Fishing election winners at 10am 20 March?

Sara Bray
Ministerial Adviser – Fisheries and Forestry
Office of Hon Tim Whetstone MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 667
P: 08 ▓▓▓▓▓ M: ▓▓▓▓▓▓

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent:	Monday, 18 March 2019 1:05 PM
To:	Bray, Sara (PIRSA); Price, Simon (PIRSA)
Cc:	Sloan, Sean (PIRSA); Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA)
Subject:	FW: MRFAC election counting methodology

Hi Sara/Simon

As per your earlier request, see advice below from DPC regarding MRFAC election counting methodology for your consideration..

PIRSA were aiming to compile this into the verification advice, however early discussion of any questions you have regarding the advice on the manual count can occur prior to this.

Regards
Keith

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | **Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA**
P: +61 8 8429 0513 | **M:** + 61 437 675 573 | **W:** www.pir.sa.gov.au

From: Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2019 10:52 AM
To: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Sloan, Sean (PIRSA) <Sean.Sloan@sa.gov.au>; Balan-Vnuk, Eva (DPC) <Eva.Balan-Vnuk@sa.gov.au>; Coombe, Alistair (DPC) <Alistair.Coombe@sa.gov.au>
Subject: MRFAC election counting methodology

Hi Keith

As you're aware, given the complexity of the counting methodology (partial preferential, proportional with special categories) DPC was asked by PIRSA to use for the MRFAC election currently being hosted on YourSAy, we have been working with our colleagues in the Office for Technology to undertake a quality assurance role to verify the algorithm and counting methodology being used by Horizon State to determine the result of the online election.

This will allow us to run the results through our own algorithm and counting software to verify the result provided by Horizon State. Please note that this is distinct from verifying the blockchain – the blockchain is simple a repository for the votes and the verification process happens once the votes are put through the counting software.

We have been working with Horizon State to ensure the algorithm they develop is in line with what we understand to be the intent of this election following the principles that it be democratic and whereby the candidates with the highest number of votes are elected to the five positions, with at least one female, one inland fisher and one tackle shop owner represented. As the algorithm is untested, we have also developed a vote generator to test it to ensure that it delivers the results as intended following those principles. This has been a significant amount of work, over many months, that ICT and Digital Government has undertaken to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the voting process.

Further to this, given the proposed counting methodology has not been used anywhere before, as an additional, third verification, we have asked the South Australian Electoral Commission (SAEC) about the possibility of SAEC conducting another verification of the algorithm developed to undertake this count. We also enquired if the SAEC is able to undertake a manual count of the votes as a further verification of our algorithm.

The SAEC has advised us yesterday that they are unable to verify the algorithm as it varies from existing legislated methodologies. They also advised us a manual count will be extremely complex and time consuming due to the counting methodology being used and that they do not have the resources to assist with a manual count. Given this advice, we will not be proceeding with a manual count.

Their further advice to us was to completely disclose the methodology by publishing it on the website, which we had planned to do and will update the website accordingly.

Best regards
Sarah

Sarah Thomas
Head of Strategic Engagement
Office for Digital Government
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent:	Monday, 5 November 2018 8:37 AM
To:	Thomas, Sarah (DPC); Fairlamb, Gail (DPC)
Cc:	Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA); Tyson, Simone (DPC); Dietman, Peter (PIRSA)
Subject:	RE: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

Thanks Sarah

This all makes sense to me, thanks for clarifying the Option 1 costs.

Regards
Keith

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
P: +61 8 8429 0513 | M: + 61 437 675 573 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au

From: Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Sent: Friday, 2 November 2018 2:08 PM
To: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>;
Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

·Hi Keith

See my comments below:

Option 1: likely to be closer to $40k as follows:
Katalyst – original scope of work will still be required – estimate ▓▓
Horizon State – providing preferential vote and proportional count using blockchain - circa ▓▓
Katalyst – integrating Horizon State solution to YourSAy front end – not yet scoped, allow up to ▓▓
NB – storage and location of data to be confirmed with Horizon State

Secure printing of the votes can be managed by YourSAy, however, the manual counting of votes would not be our
preferred option.

Comments also included in the attached.

Please call me if you'd like to discuss.

Best regards
Sarah

From: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent: 02 November 2018 13:04
To: Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>; Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>;
Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

Hi Gail/Sarah

1

Further to this email, can you please review and provide any comments on the attached briefing on this issue.

Regards
Keith

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
P: +61 8 8429 0513 | M: +.61 437 675 573 | W: www.pir.sa.gov.au

From: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent: Wednesday, 31 October 2018 9:38 AM
To: Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>; Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>;
Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

Hi Gail/Sarah

Further to our phone call yesterday, I wanted to confirm the two options we discussed in terms of indicative timing, costs and integrity.

Option 1
Online preferential and electronic proportional counting
Horizons (voting etc.), Katalyst (YourSAy build)
Cost ~$30K
Timing – voting early in 2019
Integrity – Nomination, voting and count systems contained within YourSAy
NB: Still requires technical input and testing to make sure systems integrate

Option 2
First past the post voting and counting system
Katalyst (YourSAy build)
Cost ~▆▆▆▆
Timing – 3 to 4 weeks to build, so potentially can be run late in 2018
Integrity – Nomination, voting and count systems contained within YourSAy .

You also indicated the option of voting then manually counting the votes would not be a preferred option for DPC, given some of the integrity issues with printing the votes and logistics with manually counting, scrutineers and other factors.

Can you please confirm by return email this record of the discussions, happy to be corrected if I am incorrect.

I will have discussions with my Executive, then integrate this into the briefing, with DPC review, that is being prepared.

Regards
Keith

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
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From: Fairlamb, Gail (DPC)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2018 5:13 PM
To: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>;
Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

Hi Keith,

Thanks for this. We will provide some options, however this may not be exactly as described below. We are under the pump for a Cabinet matter, and will return with considered advice as soon as possible.

The discussion yesterday deviated from previous conversations and we are needing to give this new request careful thought.

Thanks
Gail

From: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 2:01 PM
To: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>; Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>; Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: MRFAC - YourSAy and voting

Hi All

Thanks for participating in the discussion at the Ministers office yesterday.

In following up with Peter and the ED yesterday, we thought it might be useful to put some dot points down regarding the options we discussed with Simon at the end of the meeting.

- The gold plated version of using YourSAy and an algorithm to provide the full blown preferential voting with proportional vote counting.

- A version which includes using YourSAy to categorise the voting to direct individuals to vote for two ordinary members, one female, one inland fisher and one retail member. This may involve ranked voting, or may not.

- A version, similar to what was planned in which voters are asked to vote for 3-5 members, with a first past the post scenario for all categories.

Costs, timelines, risks and benefits should be considered for all options.

Regards
Keith

Keith Rowling | General Manager, Fisheries Policy and Management Unit
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Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)

From:	Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA)
Sent:	Friday, 19 October 2018 11:42 AM
To:	Dietman, Peter (PIRSA); Rowling, Keith (PIRSA)
Cc:	Sloan, Sean (PIRSA)
Subject:	RE: From YourSAy team : Recreational fishing body - info on preferential voting etc

Absolutely. Look forward to it. Cheers Celia

From: Dietman, Peter (PIRSA)
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 11:41 AM
To: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Sloan, Sean (PIRSA) <Sean.Sloan@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: From YourSAy team : Recreational fishing body - info on preferential voting etc

Hold off until we have had a chance to discuss with Sean and consider options first thing next week

Regards

Peter Dietman | Director Operations
Fisheries & Aquaculture | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA
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recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA)
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 11:03 AM
To: Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>; Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>
Subject: From YourSAy team : Recreational fishing body - info on preferential voting etc

Hi Peter and Keith,

can we please discuss the best way to relay this to the Min's office, and/or respond?

Thanks

Celia

PS note that re: Simone's query 7 re: the org nominations, I have reminded her it is a letter-based process completely separate to YourSAy.

Hi Celia,

I've had a chat to Jamie and there's a heap of questions he needs answered in order to come back with a price. Be prepared for a long email!

In short, changing the front end to add voting of up to 5 in order of preference isn't too hard. However the big cost and development time is if we want the system to actually calculate the result. The original brief was always that the vote counting and calculation of "winners" would always occur outside the YourSAy system (using a CSV file).

We worked through and think there's a few options for them to come back on:

1. As originally briefed including manual counting (this was the original quote of ▓▓)
2. Ability for people to vote for up to 5 people in order of preference incl manual counting & manual calc of winners based on CSV file export (see question 1 on this one)
3. As above but can number all nominees (up to 100) incl manual counting & manual calc of winners based on CSV file export (see question 2 on this one)
4. Nominate up to 5 people in order of preference, including category validation (minority groups woman, inland fisher, commercial/tackle shop) meaning your vote doesn't count if you haven't selected from these categories, and assuming manual counting and calculation of "winners" based on CSV file export (see question 3 on this one)
5. As per the above options but including auto count and calculation of "winners."
6. Option for developing ability for admin to print out votes with no identifying info so that votes can be taken digitally but counted manually (we don't think this is a good option but I've asked him to look at it).

Questions for PIRSA

1. Per option 2 above, would people have to select all 5 or their vote doesn't count? (ie should this include validation so that the system won't let your vote go through if you haven't numbered all 5 preferences?) We have assumed no it won't count and you DO have to select all 5.
2. Per option 3 above, would people have to number 1-100 or their vote doesn't count? Jamie thinks this option isn't a valid one. Presenting it on the web page will mean people are scrolling through 100 names and he thinks there's a very high chance of votes not being submitted – from a user's point of view it's difficult and from a website point of view, there's too much information.
3. Per option 4 above, is this a voting requirement or purely a membership of the council requirement? Will people be able to nominate their top 5 and have their vote count if they haven't included a female, a tackle shop owner/commercial person and an inland fisherperson in their nomination?

Other questions:

4. When we ran Fund my project there was an LGA rule - LGA can only have 50% of the organisation's projects – the easiest option appears to be that each major organisation can only have 1 seat on the Association. Is this an option at all? It seems to us the simplest option and you would have to manually validate the people selected but we think people can lie anyway so a level of manual validation will be needed.

5. Regarding the usual voting process, usually the voter knows where their preferences are going? (eg If I vote Labor I know they allocate their preferences to the Greens etc). We have assumed this isn't happening here – that the nominees aren't being given a list of all other nominees and being asked who they want their preferences to be allocated to. Hopefully our assumption is correct?

6. Will 5 votes be enough to allocate out the preferences properly? Do we need the user to allocate more than 5 preferences to all for this to work properly?

Nominations
7. How is the organisation nominations limit of 3 being validated and policed? (Currently the brief assumes this is manual and needs to be otherwise first 3 to nominate will get through but we wanted to confirm this)

Counting/auto calculating (this could be 2 weeks work to build but only if they know exactly what calculation they're building in)
The biggest questions were around the counting. Jamie said they can build it (if they have time and money) however it's hard to spec it out without an actual calculation to base it on and the only one we know of is the quota one Quota = formal votes received/(number of vacancies + 1) + 1.
The problem we have is there's another layer over this, which is the Female/Inland Fisher/Tackle shop owner.

8. When counting, how will the categories (Female/Inland Fisher/Tackle shop owner) be counted? Will the categories be checked after the preferences are all allocated out or at the start of the counting process?
9. Jamie mentioned that often when systems are built that auto calculate competition winners, there's legislation around this (independent auditing etc). He wanted to know IF they did look at calculating an automatic result as part of their back end, what approvals are required for this and what legislation is in place that we might need to look at. How heavily scrutinised does the result have to be?

Sorry for all the questions! Jamie is also happy to meet with the best expert on preferential voting and proportional representation to make sure we get this right.

In addition, we have contacted Horizon State, who are an Australian blockchain company looking at voting technology (I believe they're piloting this in Indonesia). I haven't heard back yet but we will continue to follow this up. We have heard blockchain is the answer to this problem but how well advanced and tested that solution is I'm not sure. Jamie did say they would be happy to work with a blockchain provider to find a solution but again, it depends how much time we have! And if there's any proven providers yet.

Cheers,

Simone Tyson
Senior Engagement Adviser
Office for Digital Government
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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Level 4, 30 Wakefield Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000
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DX142

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Sent: Monday, 15 October 2018 4:40 PM
To: Fairlamb, Gail (DPC) <Gail.Fairlamb@sa.gov.au>; Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au>; Tyson, Simone (DPC) <Simone.Tyson@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Dietman, Peter (PIRSA) <Peter.Dietman@sa.gov.au>; Rowling, Keith (PIRSA) <Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Recreational fishing body - info on preferential voting etc

Hi all,

see below from Sara Bray to me just now.

Gail, Sarah and Simone – many thanks for your attendance and expert input today.

As flagged in the meeting, ideally we would be able to present to the Minister's office a range of possible options for moving forward on the voting platform and processes.

Look forward to discussing with you soon,

Thanks,

Celia

From: Bray, Sara (PIRSA)
Sent: Monday, 15 October 2018 4:26 PM
To: Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA) <Celia.Brissenden@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Price, Simon (PIRSA) <Simon.Price@sa.gov.au>
Subject:

Hi Celia

Just out of our convo today – the following should assist for future discissions about the voting system. Simon and I were talking about Optional Preferential voting. And the counting method is Proportional representation.

Information about preferential voting - https://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/?view=article&id=101 (useful animation which shows first past the post vs preferential voting)

This link explains proportional representation vote counting:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBy7Qgwj9IQ&t=386s

After today's discussion we will send out a media release this week announcing that we have invited nominations from the existing groups.

Talk soon
Sara

Sara Bray
Ministerial Adviser – Fisheries and Forestry
Office of Hon Tim Whetstone MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 667

P: 08 ▨▨▨▨▨ M: ▨▨▨▨▨

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Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From:	Thomas, Sarah (DPC)
Sent:	Tuesday, 18 December 2018 8:08 PM
To:	Sloan, Sean (PIRSA)
Cc:	Rowling, Keith (PIRSA); Brissenden, Celia (PIRSA); Fairlamb, Gail (DPC); Tyson, Simone (DPC)
Subject:	Re: Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council – Minutes of meeting 26/11/18

Hi Sean

Following our meeting with Horizon State last week we have further questions that require clarification in order to determine both the requirements for the algorithm and therefore the cost. I understand the meeting tomorrow with the Minister's office will likely provide that clarity.

The original agreed cost of ▓▓ to PIRSA to build the MRFAC voting module does not change and PIRSA has been sent the first invoice for this work.

The cost for Horizon State to use blockchain is being met from resources within the Office for Technology.

You may recall there are some costs (approx ▓▓▓) involved in integrating the Horizon State solution to YourSAy, these costs will be met by DPC.

Therefore the only remaining cost is for the verification of the algorithm by our technology team as discussed in the meeting the original email below refers to. This is likely to be approximately ▓▓ and we will be in a position to confirm this once the final requirements for the algorithm are determined. The advice we have received to date is that this algorithm is very complex and while it is using existing models (Senate, local gov elections etc), the special categories makes it more complex and will need to be completely unique.

I am on leave now until 14 January, but have briefed Gail upon her return from leave today. Simone is also completely across this project.

Best regards
Sarah

Sarah Thomas
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

M: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ | E: sarah.thomas3@sa.gov.au

1

On 16 Dec 2018, at 8:43 pm, Sloan, Sean (PIRSA) <Sean.Sloan@sa.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Sarah

Where did you get to on this please?

Regards
Sean

Sean Sloan | Executive Director | Fisheries and Aquaculture
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On 13 Dec 2018, at 4:59 pm, Thomas, Sarah (DPC) <Sarah.Thomas3@sa.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Keith, Celia and Sean

One of the actions from this meeting was for us to investigate the additional cost for the Office for Technology to create an algorithm to count the votes. We are clarifying the additional cost and will provide this to you asap. In addition to this, I've mentioned to Keith that the Office for Technology has agreed to provide funding to allow us to use blockchain for the counting process.

We are meeting with Horizon State tomorrow via teleconference to discuss how this will work and I will provide feedback on this process. If you would like to be involved in this conversation, please me know and I'll provide details.

Best regards
Sarah

2

Dear all

Thank you for your time yesterday, please see below a summary of our discussion and next steps. Please review and provide me with any omissions or changes if this does not accurately reflect our discussion.

Proportional counting
- DPC advised the Office of Technology is able to develop a script to count the votes using the proportional counting method required, this could be used instead of manual counting. There will be an additional cost to the development work, which may be in the vicinity of ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ additional cost but will need to be appropriately costed.
- Note: this was planned as a verification in addition to the blockchain application, and will therefore not enable public verification of the vote.

ACTION: DPC to obtain quote for development of the script and provide to PIRSA.
DPC clarifying costs and will provide asap
ACTION: Minister's office to provide details on the rules of vote counting to enable DPC to build the algorithm. Eg how the categories will be filled in the preferential system. DPC will seek further advice on this shortly.
DPC has provided information to Minister's office on our understanding of the voting process. Awaiting confirmation from Minister's Office.

Drivers licence / Proof of age verification
- Minister's office advised that the Minister has decided this is not necessary.

Register to Vote
- Minister's office agreed that a discrete register to vote period, prior to the voting period, would be an additional barrier to voting and would negatively affect participation.
- It was therefore agreed that there would not be a register to vote period, instead people can register to vote and vote in the same process.
- Minister's office agreed that instead, an email sign-up during the nominations period would allow communication with voters. This view was supported by PIRSA and DPC. All communication with voters will be through YourSAy channels.

3

Nomination Period

- DPC advised this process can be opened on 17 December. Minister's office requested to test system before being made available to public. Other items may need to be ready for opening of nominations including Candidate Handbook and details of the preferential voting and counting to be placed on the website.
- Discussion that firm dates would need to be published in advance of nomination period opening to ensure voters are aware of the opportunity to nominate over the Christmas/New Year period, which will be a difficult time to engage the community.
- Agreed that a minimum of 4 weeks for the nomination period is required.
- DPC advised if nominations open on 17 December, then 6 weeks was preferable.
- PIRSA supported opening early if community was notified of opening/close dates of nomination period.

ACTION: DPC to confirm 'go live' date as well as date available for internal testing.
DPC has advised go live date is 17 December with testing available from 13 December
ACTION: PIRSA to advise if Candidate Handbook will be ready by 15 December and consider other items required for launch of this period.
DPC has provided draft Candidate Handbook to Minster's office
ACTION: DPC / PIRSA to provide two options for timing to Minister's Office – these options are as follows:

Option 1 (nominations open pre-Christmas):
Nominations open – 17 December 2018 (period of six weeks)
Nominations close – Friday 25 January 2019
Review nominations – From 17 December 2018 until 1 February 2019 (6 week nomination period plus an extra week to review later nominations; this acknowledges that nominations will be reviewed iteratively during the nomination period)
Voting opens – Monday 4 February 2019 (for four weeks)
Voting closes – Friday 1 March 2019
Outcome confirmed – w/c Monday 4 March (Issue to be considered - what does this process entail from DPC/ PIRSA / Ministers office?)
Outcome announced – TBC – announcement of results dependant on process

Option 2 (nominations open post-Christmas):
Nominations open – Monday 14 January 2019 (period of four weeks)
Nominations close – Friday 8 February 2019
Review nominations – From 14 January until 15 February (4 week nomination period plus an extra week to review later nominations; this acknowledges that nominations will be reviewed iteratively during the nomination period)
Voting opens – Monday 18 February 2019 (for four weeks)
Voting closes – Friday 15 March 2019
Outcome confirmed – w/c Mon 18 March (Issue to be considered - what does this process entail from DPC/ PIRSA / Ministers office?)
Outcome announced - announcement of results dependant on process.

Side by side comparison of options:

	Option 1	Option 2	Comments
Nominations open	Monday 17 December 2018	Monday 14 January 2019	Nominations are reviewed ongoing during this period
Nominations close	Friday 25 January 2019 (Open for 6 weeks)	Friday 8 February 2019 (Open for 4 weeks)	
Review of nominations closes and nominations announced	By Friday 1 February 2019	By Friday 15 February 2019	
Voting opens	Monday 4 February 2019 (Open for 4 weeks)	Monday 18 February 2019 (Open for 4 weeks)	
Voting closes	Friday 1 March 2019	Friday 15 March 2019	
Outcome calculated and successful candidates considered by Minister	Monday 4 March-Friday 8 March	Monday 18 March-Friday 22 March	Advice on outcome to be confirmed – results likely at this time but consider what this process entails for DPC/PIRSA/Minister's office
Outcome confirmed	w/c Monday 4 March 2019	w/c Monday 18 March	Announcement of result depending on process above

Assessment of candidate nominations
- DPC recommended real-time assessment of candidate nominations to expedite the process and ensure the voting can open as soon as possible after the close of the nomination period.
- Agreed that further details (other than what was provided in the consultation paper) about the assessment process to be included in the candidate handbook.
- DPC advised likely that most nominations would be received in the final days of the nomination period and noted that PIRSA would need to resource a telephone hotline to assist candidates.

ACTION: PIRSA to work with Minister's Office on candidate handbook and develop an assessment process.
ACTION: PIRSA / Minister's Office to confirm (advise DPC) of the minimum recommended timing for this period.
ACTION: PIRSA to resource telephone hotline to assist candidates.

Voting Period

5

- DPC advised a voting period (minimum 4 weeks) would level the playing field and allow time for candidates with a smaller network to reach more people.

Disputes
- Minister's Office advised that a 'returning officer' would need to be appointed to handle any disputes.
ACTION: PIRSA to consider and nominate.
Minister's Office has advised no returning officer required.

I look forward to your feedback, with any questions please call me on ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓

With best regards

Sarah Thomas
Head of Strategic Engagement
Office for Digital Government
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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