**Update – Member Advisory Committee meeting - 29th May 2023**

*The draft Member Advisory Committee proposal before members states that ‘the Committee will be made up of 9 member elected representatives, one from each Holstein Australia region, plus up to two non-executive directors and, by agreement of the Committee, an external party with specialist skills as required’.*

In response to a member question, it was confirmed that *the 9 Holstein Australia regions are NSW-Northern, NSW-Southern, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, VIC-Western, VIC-Northern, VIC-Gippsland and Western Australia.*

In response to member questions on nominations for the Committee from individual Sub-branches it was clarified that with the draft as it currently stands:

* Where one Sub-branch represented a whole region - for example Western Districts, Tasmania, Western Australia, etc - each Sub-branch would be able nominate an individual or individuals for the Member Advisory Committee. Where more than one nomination was received by the Sub-branch, an election would be required to determine the candidate to be put forward.
* Where a region is made up of multiple Sub-branches - for example Gippsland, Northern Victoria, NSW-Southern, NSW Northern etc - each of the Sub-branches in these regions would need to work together to nominate one representative for the region. Where more than one nomination was received, an election at regional level would be required to determine the candidate to be put forward.

Additional questions and key points raised by members resulted from this discussion as follows:

* Each Sub-branch should be able to nominate a Member Advisory Committee member rather than each Sub-branch / region potentially holding an election.
* The key requirement is to attract people who actively want to participate (on the Member Advisory Committee) with nomination rather than an election process at Sub-branch and regional level potentially facilitating this.

In response to these two points, the Holstein Australia CEO advised that a suggestion had been put forward to the Board and management from more than one member prior to the information session that existing Sub-branch Presidents - who have already been through a member election process at local level – or their nominees could form the Member Advisory Committee membership.

* An alternative opinion put forward was that, for example, should 5 nominations be received from one region, all 5 people who nominated should be encouraged to participate or be included on the Committee. This was set against the scenario of less member participation in committees now being the norm, with general discussion around possible reasons for this.
* The opinion was also put forward that HA should continue as it is i.e., not put a new committee in place.

In response to the above Holstein Australia director, Gino Pacitti, posed the question “if the draft Member Advisory Committee had stated that nominations could come from any member and were not region based what would have been people’s reaction? If anyone can nominate what would happen if you had 9 people (i.e., the entire committee) from one region? Wouldn’t it be skewed if there was representation from only one area? Or would members be happy with that scenario?”

* Opinion was divided in response to the above. On the one hand – and what appeared to be the majority opinion – it was felt what was needed above all else was to attract people who were interested in the role. Committee members, it was felt, would be there to represent and serve all members to the best of their ability, irrespective of where they are from.
* The counter to this was that if all Member Advisory Committee members were from one region, for example NSW-Southern, would this be acceptable to the national membership?
* A strong opinion was put forward that this scenario would not be acceptable to the membership, with the preference being for each region to have representation.
* The suggestion was also put forward that Member Advisory Committee members should be state based rather than regional.

There was no resolution either way with the take outs being on the one hand it could result in greater participation, on the other that it could be the wrong road to go down, with the potential to alienate a proportion of the wider membership.

Other questions, to be further discussed at forthcoming information sessions, were:

* If HA does not receive enough Member Advisory Committee nominations, what happens?
* Is an option not to have a Committee? Is there a plan B?
* Is the remit of the proposed Member Advisory Committee too broad? More targeted / single purpose committees (such as the BDCC) have received strong buy-in in the past and tend to attract a full roster of members.

**Make your opinion count**

Two further member information sessions with Board members and management have been arranged. Click on the links below to register for your preferred session.

* [*10am AEST Friday 2nd June*](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkduqprTsiH9YcMIrBpq_WKqyHsdwszJnl)
* [*2pm AEST Tuesday 6th June*](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUof-2rqzMpEtcmCQrMX0IRZDZGR9volqse)

Board members are also available at any time to discuss the proposed Member Advisory Committee. [*Board member*](file:////Users/adam/Documents/Perfect%20Beach%20Pty%20Ltd/Clients/Holstein%20Australia%20/Media%20releases/Approved/%255blink%20content-id%3D%27451%27%20parent-id%3D%27449%27%20loginRequired%3D%27false%27%255d) and [*Strategic Directions Committee*](file:////Users/adam/Documents/Perfect%20Beach%20Pty%20Ltd/Clients/Holstein%20Australia%20/Media%20releases/Approved/%255blink%20content-id%3D%27452%27%20parent-id%3D%27449%27%20loginRequired%3D%27false%27%255d) contact details are available on the HA website.