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MEMO: National Council
Branch secretaries (for distribution)

Review White Paper released

The White Paper into the review of the structure and core activities of Pipe Bands Australia has been released after 12 months of research, investigation and consultation across Australia by the Review Panel.

The White Paper has recommended a streamlined administrative structure within the federal model of representation with further recommendations to transition to a board structure within five years and a branch structure closely mirroring the national model.

The Review Panel has made recommendations on the structure of the Australian Pipe Band College and changes to the current incremental examination structure while also placing an emphasis on education and training through establishment of specialist committees within a new music board formed through the piping and drumming divisions. The panel has also recommended an expansion and renaming of the role of principal of ensemble to that of pipe band musicianship to spearhead new initiatives, combined with those in other divisions of college, to assist bands continue to improve musical standards across Australia.

The White Paper also recommends development of engagement strategies at national and branch levels, recognising that the key driver will always be local bands in local communities. The White Paper presents recommendations on the future of the Australian Pipe Band Championships and its place as a major international event following research of championships in overseas jurisdictions, the presentation and marketing of non-pipe band events in Australia and their relationships with government and local government. Similar research has formulated recommendations on solo piping and drumming contests.

Members of the Structural Review Panel reviewed the current structure and spheres of activity of the association, researched and considered contemporary governance models of pipe band associations overseas and national member-based organisations in Australia operating in the areas of sport, the arts, business and politics in formulating recommendations. The observance of confidentiality for all submissions received and private conversations undertaken ensured there was frank and open dialogue throughout the review process.

Pipe Bands Australia records its appreciation for members of the Review Panel - Jamie Forsyth (convenor), Richard Wilson, Chris Swan, Athol Chalmers and Chris Earl – for their leadership of the process and preparation and release of the Green Paper in December and the White Paper this week.

The White Paper has been released for distribution to members through branch secretaries and national councillors will begin consideration of recommendations at the biennial conference in September. Members may also request a copy by emailing pbareview@pipebands.asn.au.