At IHMA the staff of the secretariat have been keeping abreast of updates from the WHO and national and local authorities. They have taken into consideration all available information, weighed all possible options and have come to the difficult decision to reschedule the IHMA Congress which was due to take place in Hobart on 23-26 March 2020.

The 2020 Congress will now be held in Hobart at the Grand Chancellor Hotel on 5-8 October 2020.

It is reported that current speakers, many of whom have already prepared their papers and presentations, will be able to attend the Congress on the rescheduled dates in October.

The IHMA conference organisers, Informa Australia, have made the following contingencies:

- All registrations will be transferred to the new dates
- The Grand Chancellor Hotel has offered to reschedule all accommodation booked. If accommodation has been booked directly delegates can contact the Reservations Team at the Hotel on +61 3 6235 4535 or resteamleader@hghobart.com.au who will assist in moving bookings.
- If accommodation has been booked via a third-party booking partner (for example Booking.com, or American Express Travel) delegates will need to contact the booking partner directly for assistance.

In the words of Captain Allan Gray, IHMA President: ‘I know many of you have been questioning whether the upcoming Congress in Hobart will be going ahead as planned given the evolving situation with coronavirus and related worldwide travel restrictions.

‘I am sure many of you will have more questions about what to do now and Informa Australia will contact each Congress delegate to further confirm details and address any specific questions there may be to ensure a smooth transition.

‘Thank you very much for your understanding. I share your disappointment but am equally excited about catching up with you and your news in October.’

As Harbour Masters, risk mitigation is one of their primary responsibilities and here the health and safety of Congress delegates and their families is uppermost.