



Australia's Tropical Rainforests

WORLD HERITAGE

F A C T S H E E T

Managing the World Heritage Area

In 1990 the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments agreed on a management framework for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. They decided to establish a small Cairns-based agency which would be responsible for managing the Wet Tropics to meet Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Management Partnerships

Within the World Heritage Area's 3,000 km (1,800 mile) boundary there are 733 separate parcels of land including national parks, state forest, freehold (private) land and a range of leases over public land. World Heritage listing does not affect land ownership and about two per cent of the World Heritage Area remains privately owned (about 300 separate parcels of land). Because of the complex land tenure, many people ranging from private land owners to government agencies are actively involved in managing the World Heritage Area.

Ministerial Council

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) was created in 1990. It answers to State and Commonwealth Governments through a Ministerial Council and is directed by an independent Board of Directors.

The Wet Tropics Ministerial Council is made up of four Ministers - two each from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. The Ministerial Council coordinates funding and policy between the two levels of government. It is chaired by the Queensland Minister for the Environment.

The Board

The Board is made up of six directors and reports to the Ministerial Council.

It is responsible for the way the Authority performs its functions and exercises its powers. The Board meets at least four times a year to discuss and prioritise the Authority's objectives, strategies and policies. The executive director of the Wet Tropics Management Authority is a non-voting member of the Board.

The Authority

The Authority is a small, policy-focussed organisation with about 30 staff. It's not responsible for daily management issues such as land management, routine permits and enforcement activities which are the responsibilities of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and other land managers.

Legislation

Special legislation for protection and management of the World Heritage Area was enacted by the Queensland Government in 1993 and is called the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*. The *Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Conservation Act 1994* was enacted by the Commonwealth in 1994 and carried forward into the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The state legislation also provides the legal basis for the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*. Preparation

of a Plan for the entire Wet Tropics Area was an obligation for the Authority under both the intergovernmental agreement and the Act. The Plan regulates land use activities in the World Heritage Area through a zoning and permit system and reflects a range of communities and interests that were involved in the planning process.

Advisory Committees

The Board receives advice and feedback from 2 advisory groups, the Community Consultative Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. Each group meets 3 or 4 times a year to discuss relevant issues and policy proposals relating to the World Heritage Area. Stakeholder liaison groups have also been established to improve communications between WTMA and three key stakeholder groups - the conservation and tourism sectors and landholders and neighbours.

Main Functions

The primary goal of the Authority is to ensure that Australia meets its obligations under the World Heritage Convention in relation to the World Heritage Area. The Authority is a body corporate, with statutory powers defined under the Act.



Black mountain gecko

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AUSTRALIA'S TROPICAL RAINFORESTS WORLD HERITAGE

The Authority's main functions are:

- to develop and implement management plans, policies and programs;
- to administer funding arrangements;
- to promote research and monitor the state of the Wet Tropics;
- to work cooperatively with and have regard to the cultural traditions of Rainforest Aboriginal people;
- to enter into cooperative management agreements and other arrangements with land holders and Aboriginal people;
- to develop community education programs; and
- to promote the Wet Tropics locally, nationally, and internationally.

New Image

A new name and image has been developed for the World Heritage Area, previously promoted as the Wet Tropics. A logo of a frog and leaf was developed as part of a Marketing Action Plan.

The frog represents more than 100 animal species which are rare or endangered.



The leaf symbolises over 2,800 different plant species that grow in the World Heritage Area, with more than 700 species found nowhere else in the world.

The logo is also intended as a vivid reminder of the cultural heritage of more than 20 Aboriginal tribal

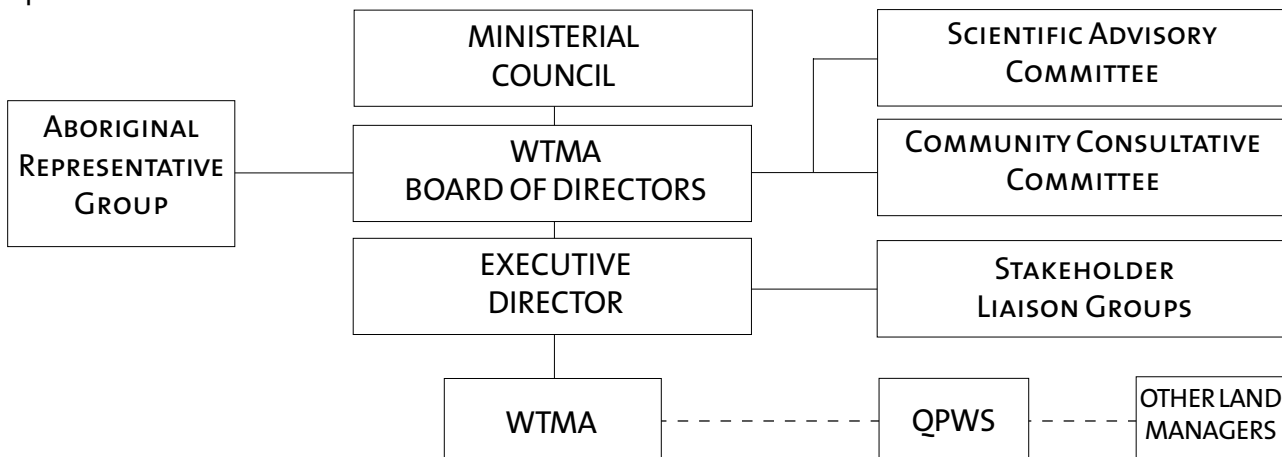
groups who are recognised as the traditional owners of Australia's Tropical Rainforests World Heritage.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority retains the existing cassowary and fern brand as its corporate logo.



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Operational Chart



- Policy, Strategic Planning, World Heritage Negotiations

- On-ground Management, Routine Permitting, Compliance, Visitor Management

