

Board Meeting No. 131

27 June 2025

FINAL MINUTES

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Innisfail – Cassowary Coast Regional Council Chambers
Wet Tropics Management Authority
Ports North Building
PH: 07 4041 0500

Agenda item 1.1

Chair's welcome and introduction, and apologies

Discussion:

The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all attendees.

In Attendance:

Board Directors:	
Ms Chrissy Grant	Chair
Dr Sally Driml	Director
Ms Ailsa Lively	Director
Ms Natassia Wheeler	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director (Non-voting Director)
Staff:	
Julie Colman	Principal Planning Officer
Vanessa Losada	A/ Manager, World Heritage Connections
Lucy Karger	Project Manager – Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Sean McNamara	Senior Scientific Officer
Alicia Haines	Principal Project Officer
Ana Palma	Senior Conservation Officer
Partners:	
Blythe Neville	Heritage and Policy Officer, First Nations Heritage Section, DCCEEW
Clare Fealy	Senior Heritage and Policy Officer, First Nations Heritage Section, DCCEEW
Paul Beri	Principal Ranger, Technical Support, QPWS&P
Angela Siggery	Director, World Heritage Unit, DESI
Peter Evans	General Manager - Tourism Industry Development, DETSI
Others:	
Anne Clarke	President, Kuranda EnviroCare
Rachel Reece	Kuranda YCA Community Engagement officer

Apologies were received from:
Ms Julia Playford, Mr Michael Nelson, Mr William Enoch-Tranby, Ms Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez, Mr Matt Brien, Mr Tim Wong,

Agenda item 1.2

Conflict of Interest

None reported.

Agenda item 2.1

Chair's report

Discussion:

Chair provided the following updates since the last report:

- Participated in international meetings regarding Indigenous peoples in World Heritage Areas.
- Chaired the joint Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and Terrain NRM - Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting in Cairns, with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT) in attendance.
- IAC called for increased female involvement.
- Across late Feb and March, involved in 2 recruitment processes for Scott's 5-week replacement and the assessment of the EOI process with 53 applications to consider for 2 new Board Directors to be decided by Minister Powell. Involved numerous phone calls to the Department and Minister's Office regarding the skills required on the Board.
- Held multiple meetings with RAPTT prior to the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum (RAP Forum).
- Chaired and reported back on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) meeting and Community Engagement and Cultural Values working group meetings.
- Engaged with the World Heritage Centre on K'gari – requiring information on the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021-2031 and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides training program.
- Attended Cultural Values Working Group meeting with strong Indigenous representation across National World Heritage properties.
- Contributed to a discussion paper on building Indigenous capacity for UNESCO.
- Presented at the University of Santiago on World Heritage and the repatriation program.
- Conducted WTMA induction for two new Board directors and provided a refresher.
- Scott presented at the AWHACC meeting on the disaster recovery fund, which drew interest from other World Heritage properties.
- Participated in a 3-day (26-28 May) UNESCO workshop in Paris with 12 Indigenous representatives, to build the capacity across the World Heritage Convention and proposing a course on cultural values nomination processes.
- Attended the Capacity Building Workshop hosted by The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH).
- Sent a letter to the new Minister and other elected Commonwealth politicians congratulating them congratulating Minister Watt on his appointment, seeking a meeting and seeking funding for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP).
- Participated in the World Intellectual Property Inter-Governmental Conference (WIPO IGC) on genetic resources and Traditional Knowledge as Chair of IP Australia's Indigenous Knowledge Panel to review the current legislation on intellectual property (IP).

- Attended the RAP Forum, noting good engagement but room for increased community interest in presentations.
- Attending the upcoming 47th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, to be held in Paris from 6–16 July. This session will focus on reviewing nominations for new World Heritage listings, monitoring the state of conservation of existing sites, and addressing key issues related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Resolution:

Board **noted** Chair's update.

Actions:

Nil

Agenda item 2.2

Executive Director's report

Summary:

The Executive Director provided the following updates since the last report:

- provided staff updates
- recognised Sylvie Garner for acting Executive Director (ED) for 6 weeks and for her advocacy for WTMA and Values Based Management Framework (VBMF) matters.
- Provided an update on budget and funding, including around $160k underspend from Commonwealth funding to be carried over for next year's Budget. Next year's Budget: $10.438M, including funds for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS)/WTMA Partnership Agreement, YCAEP, corporate infrastructure charges, disaster recovery efforts, etc.
- Federal Government commitment is needed to fund YCAEP for 2026-2028.
- ED has been speaking to Biosecurity Queensland about some potential funding for the YCAEC and QPWS about some additional funding to support planning work for the Return to Country project.

Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and Biosecurity:

- Significant new infestation of YCA in Goldsborough Valley app 350 Ha and may grow with ongoing delimitation.
- Infestation area, including new infestation, treated in June using helicopter and manual methods.
- Biosecurity NSW organising a symposium in Brisbane; WTMA representatives to attend and present.
- Cairns Regional Council to be encouraged to increase contributions to YCAEP efforts, including addressing uncooperative landholders.

Programs and Initiatives:

- Reef Assist: Choorechillum have lodged their first report.
- Continue to work with Jabalbina on their green economy strategy, investigating natural capital, regenerative agriculture, eco-cultural tourism, and economic growth activities.

- Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides (WTWHG) training program: Guardian, Defenders and Champions levels. First two attainment packages will be launched, with feedback sought from early adopters and Indigenous tour operators.
- MOU with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and Department of Environment Tourism Science and Innovation (DETSI) ends 30 June; an extension is needed.
- EcoFiesta: Successful event with two marquees and giveaways to boost social media subscriptions.

Resolution:

The Board **noted** the Executive Director's Report.

Actions:

Nil

Agenda item 2.3

Previous minutes Board Meeting No. 130

Discussion:

Board discussed two questions in relation to Section 62 guidelines that were approved, asking why they are not on the website. Also discussed legislation amendments and that the meeting with the Minister had not occurred. There is a meeting with the Director-General on 01 July.

No further comments on the minutes.

Resolution:

The Board **approved** Minutes Board Meeting 130.

Actions:

Ms Losada to finalise and publish in the WTMA internet.

Principal advisor to follow-up S62 Guidelines being published on the website.

Agenda item 3.1

Draft State of Wet Tropics and Annual 2024-25 Reports (Strategy 6)

Summary:

The Board reviewed and provided input into the draft State of Wet Tropics (SoWT) Report 2024–25, which highlights the significant impacts of severe weather events on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Annual Report 2024–25, is being prepared based on the previously approved WTMA 2024-25 end of year Milestone report. Both reports will be finalised and provided to the Board before submission to the Queensland and Commonwealth Ministers by 30 September 2025.

Discussion:

- Highlighted the impacts of the delays in funding to address disaster impacts and the need for clear guidelines to manage these impacts.
- Emphasised the importance of demonstrating impacts across Social, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural dimensions.
- Identified sections of the report as valuable educational tools for community engagement.
- Feedback from Community Consultative Committee (CCC), Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and IAC on improving report communication to be implemented, with a communications plan required.
- It may be an interesting exercise to analyse follow up recommendations from past reports- are they done, are they funded, are they followed through?

Resolution:

The Board:

- ***Noted*** the Draft State of Wet Tropics 2024-25 report.
- ***Approved*** the sharing of the Draft State of Wet Tropics 2024-25 with the Advisory Committees (Scientific, Community and Indigenous) for input / comment.
- ***Noted*** the Annual Report 2024-25 is being drafted, and a copy will be provided to the Board prior to publication for noting.

Actions:

- Incorporate CCC, SAC and IAC feedback on communicating the SoWT report - results and key messages
- Develop a comms plan for SoWT report
- Send to CCC, IAC, and SAC- next week to discuss out of session or in a meeting
- Send Annual Report out of session to the Board for approval.

Agenda item 3.2

WTMA Communications strategy (Strategy 3)

Summary:

The communications strategy is finalised and ready for implementation from 1 July 2025. The strategy includes a one-page illustrative framework outlining WTMA's foundations, strategic alignment, communications toolkit and benchmarking measures. The strategy is supported by the framework and table of priority activities for delivery over the next two years.

Discussion:

High level document with 4 tiers:

Tier 1: who we are, what is our purpose and what is our unique value proposition.
Tier 2: align who we are with our messaging to deliver our strategic objectives.
Tier 3: the supporting tools.
Tier 4: KPIs and monitoring. KPIs- Setting up for success- dual brand strategy.

Discussed social media and promoting what WTMA do; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and DETSI- great examples, story mechanisms, content sharing- to bring together more engagement from people and how they support us.

Climate change- the message is positive but need to acknowledge that without enough funding there are serious constraints for adaptation. There is a need to appropriately resource climate change adaptation measures.

Tourism and recreation- to build the message into the WTWHG – new comms and new materials need to be incorporated into the Guides Program.

Pulling this together has been a big job and it's coherent- fantastic well done to all staff! Phoebe and Aaron have done a fantastic job, please send thanks to staff.

Resolution:

The Board:

- ***Endorsed*** the communications strategy with suggested changes.

Actions:

Ms Losada to send to IAC, SAC and CCC once it's finalised.

Agenda item 3.3

Wet Tropics Management Authority Delegations (Strategy 6)

Summary:

The board considered and reaffirmed the Authority's delegations under the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (WTWHPM Act). The board endorsed making a new delegation to authorise the Executive Director to make decisions about inconsequential changes to the zoning map of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Plan), under sections 15 and 16 of that Plan.

Discussion:

- Noted that the Board's delegations under the WTWHPM Act have not been reviewed or clearly identified since 2012.
- In 2020, a new section was added to the Plan during its review, allowing minor administrative amendments to the digital map for maintenance purposes (not related to new or changing circumstances).
- Delegations were not updated when the Plan was amended.
- The Board was asked to consider delegating authority to the Executive Director for these minor administrative amendments.
- The Board acknowledged Ms Colman's efforts for this big body of work.

Resolution:

The Board:

- ***Reaffirmed*** the existing Wet Tropics Management Authority delegations shown in **Attachment 3.3.1.**
- ***Approved*** the additional delegation of decisions under sections 15 and 16 of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* to the Executive Director.
- ***Noted*** the ongoing body of work to refresh the Minister's Portfolio delegations and the Wet Tropics Management Authority delegations.

Actions:

Nil

Agenda item 3.4

Outcomes from the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum (Strategy 2)

Summary:

The Board received an update on the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum held 10-12 June from Ms Alicia Haines.

Discussion:

Ms Haines provided the following update:

- The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' (RAP) Forum held 10–12 June in Port Douglas, Kuku-Yalanji Country.
- Attendance: 16 RAP groups, 30 representatives from government and partners, totalling 100 participants.
- Open session with updates from WTMA, Terrain, and QPWS.
- Closed session for RAP, led by RAPTT.
- Video created to showcase, promote and help to seek funding.
- Social media engagement highlighted as an area for improvement.
- On Day 2: Three presentations per session, starting with a closed session.
- Presentations were primarily informational (one-way communication) rather than interactive.
- Sonya Takau, as MC, was commended for her excellent facilitation.
- On Day 3: Presentations from YCA and Biosecurity, followed by a wrap-up session.

Other points discussed

- Forming an alliance to represent RAP at a bioregional scale.
- Noted a lack of presentations from RAP groups and the importance of holding future forums on Country, led by RAP.

Next Steps:

- Feedback forms to be distributed and analysed for future forum improvements.
- Ms Haines to seek staff feedback.
- Draft outcomes report to be shared with IAC before publication.
- Debrief with Terrain to reflect on the event.

Discussion:

- Missed opportunity for meaningful discussions with government on their projects.
- Better outcomes achieved when participants are provided with a clear brief.
- RAP Forum Resolution: Reaffirmed support for RAPTT as an independent body to explore becoming a legal entity and to review and update the RAP agreement. RAPTT to be engaged regarding participation in the organisation of the next Forum in 2026.

Acknowledgements:

- Recognised the efforts of Mr Kieren Sellars and Ms Alicia Haines for their work on the Forum.
- Positive feedback received from the North Queensland Land Council.

Resolution:

The Board:

- The Board **noted** the update.

Actions:

Ms Haines to send RAP Forum outcomes report to Board for information and share with IAC, CCC and SAC.

Agenda item 4.0 Reports

Agenda item 4.1 Advisory Committee reports to the Board

Verbal update for noting.

Community Consultative Committee

Discussion:

- Ms Driml provided the following updates:
- Meeting held on 6 June to welcome new members following an EOI process.
- Previous members left due to personal reasons; no exit survey was conducted.
- Members include representatives from Cairns Regional Council, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, Daintree Discovery Centre, Cassowary Awards winners, and education sectors.
- Suggestion for committees to conduct self-assessments like the Board.
- New members have been assigned shorter terms to align with current members, however the Board suggested should consider three-year terms for committee members.
  Key issues discussed:
- Concerns raised about inadequate consultation for projects like the Wangetti Trail and Lake Eacham day-use area upgrade.
- Recommendations for early engagement, co-design, public education on site values, and diverse consultation mechanisms (e.g., workshops, info booths, written submissions, online platforms).
- Emphasis on transparency in showing how feedback is incorporated.

- In anticipation of climate change adaptation measures being developed by the SAC, the CCC advise that less invasive measures gain more trust and support, while more invasive, measures face challenges in community acceptance. Measures should be science driven.
- Importance of building social licence by involving the community in adaptation measures.
- Members prioritised climate change and a review of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- Discussion on disaster response and on-ground measures.
- Noted WTMA funding limitations and indicated interest in exploring opportunities to raise revenue for climate change management and conservation actions.
- Government resistance to introducing a conservation/environmental fee was acknowledged.
- Communication products are being compiled.
- CCC to report back to agree on priorities before advising the Board.

Actions:

Ms Driml to consider the three-year term for CCC members suggestion from the Board.

Chairs and secretariats to consider self-assessment for Advisory Committees like Board-self assessment.

Scientific Advisory Committee

Discussion:

- No SAC meeting held since the last Board meeting.
- Offer extended to Prof. Stephen Williams to serve as Chair, awaiting response.
- Secretariat is planning the next SAC meeting.
- Highland Ecological Community Workshop: Conducted as part of the partnership agreement with QPWS.
- Focused on practical activities for high-altitude areas, with the aim of incorporating these into the VBMF.
- Mid-term review of the Climate Adaptation Plan is underway.

Actions:

Nil

Joint WTMA-Terrain Indigenous Advisory Committee

Discussion:

- Met prior to the RAP Forum to facilitate, assist, and support planning and RAPTT attendance.
- Next meeting scheduled for late July.
- RAP Forum resulted in an additional nomination for a female Indigenous representative from a diverse geographical location.

Actions:

Nil

Resolution:

The Board **noted** reports from CCC, SAC and IAC.

Agenda item 4.2 Director's matters

Verbal update for noting.

S. Driml

Dr Driml provided the following update:

Contributed input to the State of the Wet Tropics (SoWT) report, specifically on the economic impacts section.

Attended Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) event, which was well attended and generated significant interest in the WTWHG.

Acknowledged TTNQ's leadership and innovation as the only regional tourism organisation with an Indigenous tourism plan.

A. Lively

Ms Lively provided the following update:

- Attended Board induction.
- Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT) continues to meet voluntarily.
- Independent review of the RAP Regional Agreement has been finalised but cannot be published yet as it is under review and must be presented to RAP.
- Strategic meetings with partners are needed.
- RAP seeks to establish a legally incorporated representative body to manage RAP interests and host a summit.
- Once the incorporated entity is established, RAPTT will step aside and hand over responsibilities.
- Prescribed Body Corporate opportunities: Exploring options for an office, ranger programs, and eco-cultural tourism opportunities. Legalities of these initiatives are still being worked through. Potential locations being considered, including walking tracks.

W. Enoch-Tranby

Mr. Enoch-Tranby was an apology.

N. Wheeler

Ms Wheeler provided the following update:

- Attended induction and YCA visit.
- Supported with video and media release for WTWHG.

M. Nelson

Mr Michael Nelson was an apology.

C. Grant

Ms Grant provided the following update:

- Cultural Values and UNESCO: Ongoing follow-up on nomination for cultural values in collaboration with UNESCO and Cwlth Department Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Indigenous peoples encouraged to work with the State to have cultural values recognised through management plans, Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) statements or other mechanisms.
- Highlighted the need for joint international-level programs to address funding challenges.
- DCCEEW has sponsored participants for international workshops and remains fully supportive.
- UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples on World Heritage noted as a resource.
- Advocacy for Non-Government Organisations and Indigenous organisations to have the ability to make statements before World Heritage decisions, requiring incorporation into World Heritage rules and procedures.
- Succession Planning: Noted that three WTMA Board members' terms will conclude in 2026, requiring succession planning.
- Suggestion that QPWS rangers working in the WTWHA and funded by WTMA can wear WTMA badges.

Resolution:

The Board **noted** reports from WTMA Directors.

Agenda item 4.3 DCCEEW report

Report – Cwlth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Summary:

Senator the Hon Murray Watt was sworn in as Minister for the Environment and Water on 13 May 2025. The Battle of the Coral Sea site was added to Australia's National Heritage List on 3 June 2025. This significant WWII naval battle site spans 43,000 km² off mainland Australia and includes three preserved shipwrecks: USS Lexington, USS Neosho, and USS Sims.

The Department is preparing for the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris (6–16 July 2025). Key decisions are expected on the Great Barrier Reef, Murujuga Cultural Landscape listing, and renaming "K'gari (Fraser Island)" to "K'gari." Draft decisions for the Greater Blue Mountains and Gondwana Rainforests are anticipated soon.

The Council met on 11–12 June, reviewing reports on Binthi Warra Indigenous Heritage Places and Ghow Swamp.

Discussion:

- Cultural Values: Adding cultural values to World Heritage listed properties will be included as an agenda item for an upcoming Board meeting.
- Battle of the Coral Sea Site: recognised as a site of major naval history and added to Australia's National Heritage List. Features include three shipwrecks and significance as a key battle that defeated Japan, involving aircraft and aircraft carriers.

- Australian Heritage Council Meeting: Presentation delivered on Indigenous places.
- National Electric Ant Eradication Program (NEAEP): Need to engage with the Federal Government regarding reporting restrictions.

Resolution:

Board **noted** DCCEEW update, report was included in the agenda paper.

Actions:

Ms Umback to provide a contact for the NEAEP in DCCEEW.

Agenda item 4.4 Queensland Department reports

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Summary: The QPWS Northern Region report highlights key updates across human resources, pest management, fire programs, capital works, and estate expansion. Recruitment is ongoing for several positions, including Cyclone Jasper recovery and pest teams. Progress continues VBMF) assessments, with approvals for multiple park aggregations and workshops held with Traditional Owners. Pest control efforts target feral pigs, cattle, and invasive weeds, while threatened species monitoring focuses on feral cat impacts. The fire program has seen increased capacity, with aerial and ground burns completed across numerous parks and fire training delivered, including to Traditional Owner partners. Capital works include cyclone recovery repairs and upgrades at Daintree, Wallaman Falls, and Josephine Falls. Estate expansions are progressing, with recommendations for forest reserves to be dedicated as national parks or State forests. Monitoring of a released cassowary near Lake Eacham continues to ensure visitor safety and wildlife welfare.

Discussion:

- The Board noted QPWS&P's report and was taken as read. Mr Beri provided a summary:
- Managing 15 recovery projects following Tropical Cyclone Jasper and flooding.
- VBMF: Focus on defining levels of service.
- Pest Management: Seeking disaster funding to support initiatives. Cat monitoring on Mt Spurgeon found no signs of activity.
- Fire Program: completed a significant number of low-impact burns. Training programs included First Nations partners.
- First Nations Engagement: exploring a position to support engagement at Lake Eacham.
- Tenure Transfers: approximately 17 Forest Reserves to be transferred to National Parks as tenure arrangements are finalised, subject to Governor-in-Council approval.

Actions:

Mr Beri will catch up with Ms Palma about disaster funding.

Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage (OGBR&WH, DETSI)

Summary:

Reviews of the K'gari (KWHAC) and Gondwana (GWHAC) World Heritage Advisory Committees have provided best practice recommendations. Capacity-building efforts and document alignment are underway. New culturally appropriate signage is being developed with QPWS&P. A visual identity style guide for the Wet Tropics has been completed, with installations underway. Plans for Gondwana and Riversleigh signage upgrades are progressing in consultation with Traditional Owners. KWHAC and RWHAC terms expired in early 2025, with new appointments underway. Riversleigh remains closed due to seasonal conditions, with partial reopening expected late 2025. Gondwana Rainforests priority projects include climate adaptation, visitor management, and cultural values. A Climate Vulnerability Index workshop was held, with next steps planned with National Environmental Science Program and University Tasmania. For the Great Barrier Reef WHA, UNESCO acknowledged progress in protecting the reef, with no 'in Danger' listing recommended. Reef 2050 plans are under review to address climate and water quality challenges.

Discussion:

The report was taken as read.

Ms Siggery provided the following summary:

- Advisory committee governance reviews: the World Heritage Unit is considering recommendations from a governance review undertaken by the Advisory Board Centre and can provide further updates on implemented improvements in due course.
- K'gari name change: acknowledged the long journey to officially rename Fraser Island to K'gari, with the World Heritage Committee to consider the renaming of the World Heritage Area to remove 'Fraser Island' at 47COM.
- Committee membership: Riversleigh and K'gari advisory committees are open for expressions of interest, closing on 3 July, staggered appointments and four-year terms will be put in place.
- Riversleigh: collaboration with lead researchers and the Queensland Museum to capture stories and oral histories. Fossils are State assets included on the State Asset Register and the Queensland Museum is continuing its audit of specimens.
- Cape York: Minister has publicly stated his intention to review the Cape York Tentative Listing process, which is occurring independently to the OGBR&WH.

Actions:

Nil

Tourism (DETSI)

Verbal update for noting P. Evans

Discussion:

Mr Evans provided the following information to the Board:

- Destination 2045 overview: aims to ensure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games leave a legacy. Economic goals: Increase economic impact from $42B to $84B and create 190,000 jobs. $1B allocated over four years to deliver the plan and secure TEQ funding. Includes a $100M regional and major events grant program.
- Ecotourism Priorities: Deliver 45 world-class ecotourism projects by 2045. Focus areas include:
    - Expanding dark sky experiences.
    - Increasing accommodation footprint.
    - Promoting environmental stewardship.
    - Building industry capacity and support.
- Tour guiding: Development of ranger training and guide programs.
- Wangetti Trail project: Ellis Beach to Wangetti section - $19.7M allocated for this 22km section, in addition to $45M for the overall project. Concept and preliminary designs underway, focusing on infrastructure safety. Pre-lodgement meetings with councils for planning approvals. Construction cannot commence until all approvals are secured. Public campsite concept endorsed by QPWS&P: Includes 10 sites on wooden platforms, 2 toilets, and communal facilities. WTMA approval required.
- Wangetti to Mowbray River section: challenges include WTWHA zoning constraints and market expectations.
- Engagement and collaboration: monthly meetings with Djabugay Nation to discuss detailed designs and program updates.
- Board raised that CCC raised concerns about local community engagement. Suggestion to engage with CAFNEC for improved consultation. Internal review of tracks and trails noted, with plans to follow up with Ms Sally Driml.
- Grants Program: WTMA interested in supporting small-scale, resilient ecotourism projects and asset maintenance in the Wet Tropics. Emphasis on co-designing projects with industry stakeholders.

Resolution:

Board **noted** the State Government reports (DETSI).

Actions:

Mr Evans to touch base with Ms Driml about suggestions to improve community engagement.

Agenda item 4.5

Kuranda EnviroCare on Electric Ants concerns **(Strategy 1)**

Discussion:

Electric Ant Eradication Concerns: Kuranda EnviroCare highlighted, in an out of session meeting, growing community concerns in regard to communications with Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program (NEAEP). Kuranda EnviroCare are keen to collaborate with, and support delivery of the NEAEP, however would like more transparency shown with regard to the independent review, work plans, and improved data and report sharing to enhance prioritisation and survey efforts and community groups' support.

Collaboration and Support: Discussions included data-sharing agreements to avoid duplication, mapping hazard data for NEAEP, and WTMA's potential support for Kuranda EnviroCare through a letter, with a request to raise these issues with DCCEEW.

Ms Wheeler touched base with Assistant Minister Bree James to get a response to Kuranda EnviroCare's letter.

Resolution:

The Board to **note** the discussion with Kuranda EnviroCare.

Actions:

WTMA to work with Kuranda EnviroCare and support a letter to DCCEEW

Agenda item 5.0 Actions arising, and significant correspondence

Agenda item 5.1 Actions arising Board Meeting 130

Agenda Item	Actions	Comments
Agenda item 2.3- Previous minutes Board Meeting No. 129	Ms Losada to finalise and publish Minutes 129.	Completed and published in the WTMA website
Agenda item 3.3- WTMA 2024-25 Quarter 2 Milestone and End of Year Report, and Quarter 2 Budget Report	Ms Losada to send reports to DCCEEW to fulfill Federation Funding Agreement requirements	Complete
Agenda item 3.5- Update on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country project	Ms Chrissy Grant to touch base with Ms Audrey Reilly in relation to burial/ cemetery sites.	Ongoing- team together to work up a guideline/policy
Agenda item 4.1- Biosecurity Queensland National Electric Ant Eradication Program	Board to consider the information from Biosecurity Queensland	Complete
Agenda item 4.2- Advisory Committee reports to the Board	WTMA to send letters to Community Consultative Committee applicants	Complete
Agenda item 5.2- Significant correspondence	WTMA/ YCA to advise and prepare a response for Kuranda EnviroCare for WTMA Board Out of session approval.	Completed
Agenda item 6.1- Other Business	a) Ms Losada to send out remuneration forms to the Board b) Ms Losada to organise costings for face-to-face meetings/ stays / accommodation. c) Ms Losada to organise with Ms Chrissy Grant, agenda topics for June and September meetings. d) Ms Salmeron-Rodriguez, for next Board meeting- create a forward engagement calendar of events to be discussed so that WTMA Board Directors can attend and be advocates, and for the committees as well, aligned with Comms Strategy.	a) Completed b) Completed c) Completed d) Ongoing
Agenda item 6.2- Board self-assessment	Ms Losada to send a new assessment survey for Board partners. WTMA Board members to complete survey out of session.	a) Complete b) Pending

Agenda Item	Actions	Comments
Agenda item 6.4- Board communique	Ms Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez to provide a Draft Communique on Wednesday 19/03/2025. Board members to approve Draft Communique as soon as possible, by Friday.	Communique Published on the website

Discussion:

The action table was discussed.

Ms Grant had a meeting regarding burial sites, can be completed. Audrey looking at potential sites based on vegetation intactness and soil types.

Discussion around whether cultural remains are treated as cultural property- need to have open communication of the intent and be clearly communicated across all stakeholders.

Actions:

Ms Losada to send final agenda papers from Board Meeting 130.

Agenda item 5.2 Significant correspondence

List and copies of correspondence distributed prior to meeting.

Date	To/From	Description	Action for Directors
03 and 06/03/2025	From Lucy Karger to Senator Nita Green	Letter / Email seeking a commitment for funding from the Australian Government for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication program.	Note
04/04/2025	From DCCEEW Branch Head, Biodiversity Division to Ms Lucy Karger	Letter in response to Funding Ask. The funding request was noted, however, due to caretaker period, WTMA was advised to write again to the incoming government once the outcome of the election is known.	Note
07/05/2025	From WTMA Chair to Ms Anne Clarke, President Kuranda EnviroCare	Letter in response to EnviroCare's letter raising concerns about electric ants.	Note
22/05/2025	From Executive Director to Reefwise Wetlands Program, Department of Industry, Science and Resources	Letter of support – healthy country, healthy culture: long-term monitoring and restoration of Eastern Kuku Yalanji wetlands and waterways.	Note
27/05/2025	From Executive Director to Mr Gordon Wheat	Letter to thank Mr Wheat for sending an acknowledgement letter and poetry to WTMA	Note
27 to 30/05/2025	From Executive Director to Creative Australia	Nine letters of support to the following applicants for the Creative Australia, Australian World Heritage Residency Program Application: Sarah Lynch, Sam Doctor, Mia Francesca Jones, Sophie Cunningham, Jordan Oliver, Amanda Niehaus, Rachel Nord, Matthew Stanton, and Brian Cheung.	Note
02/06/2025	From Executive Director to National Indigenous Australian Agency	Letter of support for Jaragun EcoServices application to restore key aquatic ecosystems in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area- Russell River National Par, for the restoration of multi-habitat mangrove, estuarine and	Note

Date	To/From	Description	Action for Directors
		freshwater ecosystems, with a focus on water quality and aquatic ecosystem health.	
03/06/2025	From Executive Director to Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (MYAC) Registered Native Title Body Corporate	Letter of support for MYAC's Indigenous Ranger Program Expansion Round 2	Note
04/06/2025	From Executive Director to the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA)	Letter of support for Girrigun Aboriginal Corporation for the NIAA Indigenous Rangers Program Expansion Round 2 to support ongoing operations of the Girrigun Indigenous Protected Areas, its land and sea rangers, and the Junior Ranger program.	Note
06/06/2025	From Executive Director to Dewayne Mundraby	Letter of support for the Mandingalbay Eco Cultural Tourism Precinct (MECTP) for their application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Strem One.	Note
09/06/2025	From WTMA Board Chair to Senator for Queensland and Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Murray Watt	Letter to congratulate the Hon Murray Watt on recent Ministerial appointment and to provide information on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, WTMA's key activities and projects, YCA eradication program's funding ask, and to request a meeting.	Note
09/06/2025	From WTMA Board Chair to Senator for Queensland and Assistant Minister for Northern Australia, Assistant Minister for Tourism and Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Ms Nita Green	Letter to congratulate Ms Nita Green on recent Ministerial appointment and to provide information on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, WTMA's key activities and projects, YCA eradication program's funding ask, and to request a meeting.	Note

Discussion:

Correspondence tabled for noting.

Resolution:

The Board noted significant correspondence.

Actions:

WTMA to seek a meeting with Minister Watt.

Agenda item 6.0 Other Business

Discussion:

Nil

Actions:

Ms Losada to organise remuneration forms to be sent to the Board.

Agenda item 6.2 Board self-assessment

Discussion:

The Board, as part of its best practice governance approach has implemented a standing agenda item to conduct a reflection and evaluation on the effectiveness of the Board meetings. Their objective is to continuously improve the performance of the Board and maintain their focus on strategic matters that drive performance and support

the Authority in meeting its legislative obligations. Any actions will form part of the actions arising from the minutes.

- Seeking feedback participation and greater engagement from partners.
- Discussed opportunity for DCCEEW to present on additional topics and involve other departmental representatives.
- Face-to-face presence improves communication; Board members encouraged to inform partners of any specific topics of interest.
- Financial reporting should include a written report.
- WTMA Chair's comments on draft minutes to be distributed to Board Directors promptly.
- Board to review and discuss risks highlighted in the agenda papers and ensure mitigation measures are in place.
- Partners could contribute to the agenda and papers by providing advice, input, or presenting on relevant topics.
- Increased in-person attendance from partners, particularly for significant projects like the Wangetti Trail, is encouraged.
- Field trip was highly valued by attendees.

Actions:

- Ms Losada to send draft minutes as soon as possible to all the Board after WTMA Chair has sent her comments.
- Principal Advisor to ask the Board for topics from partners 6 weeks prior to the next meeting.
- Principal Advisor to ask partners for input into agenda items and let them know they can present, and propose topics the Board may be interested in.

Agenda item 6.3 Board communique

Discussion:

Mr Sean Mcnamara worked on draft communique.

Resolution:

The Board approved the communique of meeting 131.

Actions:

Mr Buchanan to send the communique to key stakeholders and contacts.

Meeting closed 2:45pm.