



## Two new faces welcomed by WTMA Board

Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Associate Professor Peter Valentine welcomed the appointment of Dr Rosemary Hill and Ms Leah Talbot to the Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority at the recent Board meeting.

Dr Rosemary Hill is a Senior Scientist at CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences and Officer in Charge of the CSIRO Cairns site.

She has been active in tropical forest conservation and management locally and internationally for 30 years. Dr Hill also has extensive experience in environmental science, particularly in relation to Indigenous people's knowledge and planning systems.

Ms Leah Talbot is an Eastern Kuku Yalanji woman who holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Science.

Ms Talbot was nominated for appointment to the Board by the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council after an extensive program of consultation within the Rainforest Aboriginal community.

Both new directors will sit for a term of three years.



*Rosemary Hill*



*Leah Talbot*

“I am delighted to see the appointment of two women with such a strong background in heritage management”, said Assoc Professor Valentine.

Dr Hill was closely involved in the process of nominating the Wet Tropics for inclusion on the World Heritage List more than twenty years ago and has previously served as a member of the Wet Tropics Scientific Advisory Committee. She is a recipient of several awards for her service to conservation and science.

“Dr Hill's commitment, expertise and extensive networks will be great assets for the Authority”, said Assoc Professor Valentine.

Ms Talbot is a member of the Government's Cape York Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee and a project officer with the Australian Conservation Foundation. She has a deep understanding of the role of Aboriginal people in contemporary environmental management.

“Ms Talbot will play a vital role in ensuring that the voice of the Aboriginal community is central to decision making about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area”, said Assoc Professor Valentine.

Membership of the Authority’s Board of Directors now comprises:

- Associate Professor Peter Valentine (Chair)
- Dr Alastair Birtles
- Cr Julia Leu
- Dr Rosemary Hill
- Ms Leah Talbot
- Mr Andrew Maclean (Executive Director)

