

ATTENDANCE

Board directors

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Ms Leah Talbot	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Observers

Mr David Fuller	Principal Ranger, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Science
Ms Angela Siggery	Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Conservation and Sustainability Services, Department of Environment and Science
Ms Sarah Titchen	Assistant Director of National Heritage Section, Natural Heritage Branch of Department of the Environment and Energy
Mr Wade Oestreich	Deputy Director General, Protected Area Innovation Engagement and Policy, Department of Environment and Sciences

Authority officers

Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Ms Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ants
Dr Paul Chantrill	Principal Project Officer, Tourism and Presentation
Mr Terry Carmichael	Principal Project Officer, Planning and Conservation
Ms M'Lis Flynn	A/Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Ms Patricia O'Loghlen	Team Leader, World Heritage Connections
Ms Lorraine Briggs	Principal Planner, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Debra Simmons	A/Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mr Sean McNamara	A/Senior Project Officer
Mrs Kirsty Cattle	A/Executive Officer
Mrs Kate Thomas	Board secretariat
Mr Steven Brewer	Field Coordinator YCA
Ms Alice Crabtree	Administration Officer YCA

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Chair's Welcome and Introduction

Ms Leslie Shirreffs, Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the country on which this meeting was held and paid respects to Elder's past, present and emerging and also acknowledged all Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Chair asked directors if any matters on agenda need to be updated and all agreed no updates were required.

1.2 Apologies

Director, Iain Gordon advised he was unable to attend as he had a prior work commitment overseas.

James Newman advised he was unable to attend due to other commitments. Dave Fuller, Principal Ranger, QPWS represented the department.

1.3 Conflict of Interests

Nil.

2.0 MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

2.1 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 102

Resolution

The Board **approved** the minutes for Board meeting number 102.

2.2 Actions Arising

Executive Director, Scott Buchanan worked through the actions arising document. The Board discussed and updated the document as necessary.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the actions arising.

Actions

- Executive Officer to send director Leah Talbot an email (with relevant forms) so information about her Queensland Ministerial appointment to the climate change committee is put on her the Authority HRM file.
- Executive Officer to arrange with director Leah Talbot to present her doctoral thesis at Board meeting 104 during the lunch break.
- Executive Director to resend Cape York NRM MOU to Board attendees, any comments should go directly to the Chair.
- Look to arrange a meeting with the new Chair of Regional Development Australia, David Kempton.
- Max to verify with his staff and advise Executive Officer if the SAC provided a response to Bob Makinson following his letter to the Authority.
- A large portion of time (2hrs) to be dedicated to going through the Board priorities document at the next Board meeting.
- Final draft version of the researcher protocols to be presented at Board 104.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Chair's Report

Chair, Leslie Shirreffs addressed the Board and acknowledged International Women's Day. The Chair updated the Board on recent meetings that included;

- Meeting with state Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts the Hon Leeanne Enoch in Brisbane. Also in attendance was the Director General of the Department of Environment and Science (DES) Jamie Merrick. This was a very positive meeting about the Authority's Board priorities. Also discussed were the:
 - Plan review

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation/rangers
- Land tenure resolution
- A review of the Regional Agreement – science protocol. Jamie Merrick sits on a Queensland Universities Vice Chancellors group and is committed to drive science at both a government and corporate level through the universities.
- Minister Enoch was briefed on Wujal road – Bloomfield track and what the proponents say. The Minister (as a champion of Wujal Wujal) was appreciative of the information provided.
If the science protocol can be finalised quickly, now is the time to progress and push it as key people are receptive.
- Climate change adaptation
- The inter government agreement
- Tourism and Arts Queensland
- The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP); noting that the Minister asked many detailed questions about the program.

The Minister will be in Cairns on Saturday to attend the Cassowary Awards.

- The Executive Director and Chair met with Arts Queensland representatives. Scott Buchanan will continue this contact when Arts Queensland representatives visit Cairns.
- At a Commonwealth government level, the Chair and Executive Director had a teleconference with Stephen Oxley, First Assistant Secretary; Heritage, Reef and Marine Division at Department of the Environment and Energy. Sarah Titchen and David Williams were also in attendance. Stephen provided updates on Australia's UNESCO World Heritage committee seat – a great accolade for Australia as they make decisions on property nominations/conservation worldwide. The group were interested in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) climate change workshop. Also discussed were;
 - Outcomes from the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples (RAP) workshop
 - The plan review
 - The yellow crazy ant eradication program (YCAEP)
 - The 30-year anniversary, tourism, Commonwealth and State government requirements.

There was strong support of the Authority and we have a follow-up meeting scheduled in early May.

- Teleconference with the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC). This meeting discussed the delivery actions of the Australian heritage strategy – cultural heritage, research and more. Leslie is part of the group reviewing existing internationally significant cultural heritage. There is a push across the Board for a range of economic opportunities, research protocols and more. Also discussed was, what properties have Indigenous cultural values that can be put on the national heritage list and then international heritage list.

- DOEE has arranged for the subcommittee of the AWHAC to meet with David Kemp, the Chair of the Australian Heritage Council in March to discuss the work that they're doing. Unfortunately, Leslie will be unable to attend due to travel commitments.
- Leslie wrote the terms of reference draft for the subcommittee for revealing Australia's World Heritage.
- AWHAC – Stephen Oxley provided an update on Aboriginal cultural listing
- Leslie attended the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting and chaired the workshop on March 1. This was well received. They are an engaged, valuable and committed group of people.

Issues canvassed in press: Tully hydro raised, Daintree ferry/bridge.

Final areas of note are:

- YCA two areas ant free, third eradication coming.
- This meeting culminates in Cassowary Awards, which has a number of very important guests including Minister Enoch and the local Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch. The change of date is paying dividends in terms of VIPs attending – our decision was worthwhile.
- Note the 100th anniversary of Hull River Cyclone near traditional owner area coincides with Cassowary Awards. Some of us are attending commemoration events for this, we pay our respects and acknowledge this anniversary.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Chair's report.

Actions

- Max Chappell to ensure the Authority organisers of the SAC Climate Change Workshop send an invite to Stephen Oxley to attend.

3.2 Executive Director's Report

Scott Buchanan addressed the Board and provided a review of Human resources:

- Recruitment is finalised for the Manager of Planning and Conservation; the successful applicant is Mr Tim Wong from ACT NRM. Has worked in policy, World Heritage (in Asia) and will start on 19 March.
- PO5 Science position, interviews will take place March 14 and 15.
- Team workshop following employee opinion survey was held on 31 January. Most staff attended and it was a great day. The group came up with action items, which are being progressed. One that Scott/Kirsty have almost finalised is the internal learning program (so staff can work in different areas of the organisation). We have a great depth of knowledge and a lot of skills staff can pass onto each other. The group developed a vision, which will be presented later today.

The following meetings occurred since we last met:

- Last week the Executive Director travelled to Brisbane and met with Minister Enoch:
 - Charter letter for the Minister is published and of interest are the government's overarching priorities - "create jobs, great start for children, healthy Queensland, safe communities, protect the GBR, a responsive government". All new initiatives should align with these priorities.
 - MOU Cape York NRM – formal arrangement so both groups can actively seek to work together where we can. If you have concerns, we can talk out of session and look to finalise next week. Cape York Board discussing it currently. The next step is to move to a signing ceremony.
 - A meeting was held with the Department of Environment and Science's Nick Weinert and Wade Oestreich about the Regional Agreement.
 - Met with Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (DITIDCG), this is a key department and the Authority want to keep this good relationship going.
 - Discussed a global tourism hub for Cairns - a community access space needs to be provided. This could be a World Heritage gateway. To be proactive Scott has asked Paul to go back to a prior feasibility study and pull out a prospectus so at the next stage of the process the Authority can say here is something we prepared earlier and something that may fit.
 - Heath Jess from the special project unit was excited about this and their advice to Scott was it would be even better if you can have an Indigenous and World Heritage story.
 - Scott also had a positive Wangetti trail discussion with Bruce Aizzeddin. Bruce to get proponent to come and speak to the Authority, as they haven't talked to us at this stage. Our position is that we should be talking at the early stages of planning so that we can agree on the best way to progress to an appropriate design.

John Courtenay said there's a lot of back story here to the World Heritage Gateway concept. John suggested looking at the World Heritage area as being reef and rainforest (because you need both). Scott Buchanan agreed and advised the idea is reef and rainforest. As they're all connected and all World Heritage.

- A meeting occurred with Arts Queensland, they talked about partnership opportunities. Scott will meet with Susan Richer (and Cairns based officers) in the future. There are interpretive opportunities and Indigenous tourism opportunities, however, there needs to be a funding source for this.
- Scott held talks with Biosecurity Queensland about YCA. BQ provided some good advice about working with Canegrowers Queensland.

Internally:

- Two YCA officers are undertaking Cert IV training for tramp ant management. One issue is that Cert IV is not suitable for everyone, however the Authority is looking at modulating the course, so it's suitable for entry level staff also.
- Chris Clerc from the YCAEP developed a standing offer arrangement to streamline contractor engagement. This process is almost complete, there are 9 applicants, including Indigenous organisations. This could extend beyond the YCA program.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Executive Director's report. And acknowledged and congratulated Scott Buchanan and Bob Frazer on the Cape York NRM MOU.

Action

- A link to the charter letter for the Minister outlining the government's overarching priorities to be sent to all Board members.
- Any directors with concerns about the Cape York NRM MOU can talk out of session, so feedback can be finalised next week.
- Scott Buchanan to arrange a discussion with James Newman in regard to the Authority's role in the Wangetti trail.

3.3 Director's Issues

Leah Talbot

- Leah shared with the Board work she's been involved in that is relevant to the Authority:
 - National Environmental Science Program (NESP) has been working to ensure Indigenous participation in the research and governance structure. An outcome from this was the convergence of NESP hubs in Canberra with committee members and researchers to discuss moving towards improved engagement between researchers and Traditional Owners, ethical guidelines (need to be more comprehensive) – Leah is looking at the possibility of an Indigenous Hub.
 - The person who heads up the Northern Australia Hub has pulled together an Indigenous forum.
 - Tropical Water Hub - Henrietta Fourmile is running this work.
 - Climate Change workshop – Earth Systems Climate Change Hub; are looking at having a national workshop for Traditional Owners, as no priorities have been set about what their needs are. What is needed for Traditional Owners and how can Traditional Owners influence this research. Need to parallel work on reef and rainforest.

Phil Rist

- Phil asked a question about Reef Trust –are the Authority receiving this funding? Response from the Executive Director was No. Phil then asked can the Authority attain this funding and how can Traditional Owners get access to this for capacity building, as it is not happening yet.

Phil sees opportunities in this space.

- Leslie: Scott to raise this with Terrain to see how these fits with the Authority's Board priorities. MIP, focus on farmers. Terrain having workshops with community groups on how they can invest in rehabilitation/revegetation of corridors.
- IRAC meeting – focus was reef trust and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups can access

this funding. PBC's want to look after their country, but are struggling to survive, so there needs to be investigation on how we can support the capacity to build this.

Anne Clarke

Provided the following points of interest:

- There has been a Cassowary sighting in the West near the Kurworld site. This highlights the importance of corridors.
- Strong move for a Kuranda Region Museum, and the local council is providing premises/storage.

John Courtenay

Raised a couple of issues:

Johns feels there are clouds on horizon with tourism industry and the Authority, after the initial enthusiasm. John believes the Authority needs to be more engaged with the local tourism operators. He stated that there is a lot of concern and even fear amongst tourism operators in regard to the increasing emphasis on seeking Traditional Owner approval to operate a tourism business

Leslie Shirreffs noted that the Authority is not driving this process, however we support increased and improved engagement of Rainforest Aboriginal people particularly if it leads to greater participation in on-country tourism and economic development. Leslie feels a lack of information might be creating this tension/fear.

John agreed, the perceptions out there are injurious to the industry and the Authority has a role to communicate and take the fear out, because tourism operators are concerned about their livelihoods – particularly in the Daintree.

Phil Rist commented that things are changing to acknowledge traditional ownership in the Wet Tropics. The Authority have to support Traditional Owners to build and maintain relationships with tourism and other industries. We need to coexist/find a balance and when constructive conversations are had, everyone wins. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement can value add to traditional tourism experiences.

Wade clarified that the government policy direction has not changed. There was a discussion about Indigenous land use agreements at the time of Native Title Determination. How exclusive / non-exclusive determinations have different outcomes and impacts and as more determinations are made, the Authority need to ensure people are aware of what implications this might have.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Director's reports.

Actions

- The Board to formally write to the Director General of DES and First Assistant Secretary of DoEE about the opportunities the Authority can feed into the reef trust funding and how it can support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations with employment and biodiversity.
- Scott Buchanan to raise with Terrain how reef trust funding fits with the Authority's Board priorities.
- Anne Clarke to provide Paul Chantrill contact information for the Kuranda Region Museum.
- ☐ Wade Oestreich to meet with Daniel Gschwind and discuss options for disseminating accessible information for the tourism industry to alleviate the angst in the local tourism industry.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Government Reports

Sarah Titchen

Thanked the Board for a warm welcome and acknowledged Traditional Owners and the knowledge and expertise they bring to the conservation of the Wet Tropics.

- **Plan review:** The Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) is committed to see this plan updated. It fits with the department plan and the World Heritage convention obligations. Productive conversations regarding offsets policy to be included in the plan and some good options are emerging. We are not working in isolation; we work closely with Indigenous heritage colleagues and the environment standards division in terms of regulation/legal to ensure what goes into the plan will work at a nuts-and-bolts level.
- **New Assistant Minister:** The Hon. Melissa Price MP is the new Assistant Minister for the Department of the Environment and Energy and is working with Minister Frydenberg on resilience, national parks and the Commonwealth water office. Things are being delegated and they might touch on World Heritage.
- **World Heritage Committee:** Australian is on the World Heritage Committee (for the fourth time) and will be on the committee until 2021. Stephen Oxley will head up the delegation with Helene Marsh (threatened species) and Anita Smith (Cultural). The next meeting is in Bahrain in July – main Australian focus will be the Tasmania Wilderness area.
- **Funding:** New funding for Wet Tropics was announced last September. Funding will go to State governments. The Commonwealth is working to ensure there is less red tape in these agreements. Agreements are expected to be in place by just after the new financial year.
- **Note:** Sarah noted that due to probity requirements she cannot discuss anything related to the Regional Land Partnership request for tender with Commonwealth funding attached.

Wade Oestrich

- The Department of Environment and Science has come together as a new entity. This is a big opportunity, as we bring together, arts, science, environment and cultural heritage under the one banner. Each of these areas can be linked and there are opportunities for the Authority to make the most of these linkages.
- Work is being done internally via an inter-jurisdictional task group to review the State government future approach to resolving Native Title. NRM, DATSIP, Treasury, DPC and DES are working together to see if old ways of business doing are effective and what room for improvement is in this system, so it's less bureaucratic. Within this is an acknowledgement of traditional places and finding opportunities where Traditional Owners can look after country and make a living at the same time. This will see a greater recognition of the cultural value of national parks to our first nation's people. It's in legislation, but it has not been operationalised effectively.
- Eco tourism, this is a growing priority of government and the tourism sector. The government has recommitted to principles that are outlined in eco-tourism strategy and nature-based enjoyment. This is an important tool to connect people to the environment. The key is to ensure the government does this well. The Wet Tropics will be an area of focus. Wade recognised that DES, the Authority, DITID need to be more coordinated in their approach. It's imperative to have tourism industry and

departmental conversations occurring and addressing issues while they're emerging. This is an entire State focus.

- John Courtenay advised that the Board need to ensure the tourism industry is not scared and they need to be talked to.
- Leslie Shirreffs advised the Board would be happy to be involved.

Angela Siggery

- **Gillies range road – illegal dumping:** A workshop occurred just prior to the Board meeting between Ange's team and local councils, Terrain, DTMR and the Authority. The meeting ended positively. The team appreciated Siggy Heise-Pavlov's offer to have the School of Field Studies provide support with attitudinal and observational surveys for baseline data. Departments need to have further meetings and conduct cost assessments. The initial focus will be Yungaburra, Cairns and Atherton residents and people should start to see something on the ground this financial year.
 - Leslie advised this is good evidence of the CCC raising an issue with the Board and a solution being found.
- **Climate change:** B&E sector adaptation plan - conversations are occurring with the climate change policy team: Procurement is progressing for the co-leads on this Plan. Steering committee includes co-leads, Bob Speirs (NRM), QCOSS and the climate change policy unit. Angela alerted the group to reach out to Chairs of World Heritage scientific advisory committees – the policy team is keen for World Heritage involvement in this plan.

A survey will be distributed to all in sundry to define scope. There are likely to be a series of workshops. Angela will provide information to Scott Buchanan. There's a 4-month delivery time-frame, however procurement has slowed things a little.

- **World Heritage:** Focus on 25th anniversary of Fraser Island. VIP event on K'gari on 18 April to coincide with international World Heritage Day. Federal Assistant Minister is attending – sending invites to Premier and other ministers and Chairs. Butchulla People are partnering with the team to deliver the event as well as the QPWS.
 - Partnership have been established with channel 10 for a documentary on Fraser Island and a partnership with Queensland museum for publications.
- **Quandamooka:** Meeting with the Quandamooka people soon to discuss their process and aspirations and then the experts will be brought in for discussions.
- **Offsets review:** A new team has been created for this. Nothing is out of scope currently and they are aiming for mid-2020 implementation for the. State Environment Offsets Framework.
- **Funding:** Angela acknowledged Sarah Titchen's hard work in finalising funding and recognised attempts to get it increased.
- **Cape York and Pristine Rivers:** Awaiting a briefing with the Minister to progress.

Dave Fuller, QPWS

- Capital works were noted in last meetings minutes, there are no further updates.
- Australian Wildlife Conservatory – this is continuing, on ground and going well.
- Working on the Legal framework for Mandingalbay Yidinji, so they can remain on their current land.
- Josephine Falls: Unfortunately, since the last meeting another death occurred at this site. There are two new initiatives being implemented:
 - Safe swimming levels, QPWS have hired a hydrographer to determine a safe swimming level and this will be marked/signed at the location.
 - Communications are being improved to allow greater information exchange when incidents occur.
- After a number of approaches, we are expanding trail networks – historical tracks at Paluma Mt Halifax. Traditional Owners are being consulted as the project is progressed. There's also a new initiative to utilise existing tracks – E.g., a mountain bike track near Ingham. Draft maps in place and Traditional Owners are being consulted.
- Cardwell Forest Drive working with Girramay people/Girringun Aboriginal Corporation on place names/stories for Cardwell Forest Drive (Dead Halls Creek).
- Tully Gorge – QPWS, new toilet block/lunch area. Contracts awarded and work begins next week.
- Commonwealth Games Baton will be at Tully next week, 40 people involved.
- Tully, advance pre-worlds white water rafting event in May and 12 months after the international event. Girringun is involved.
- Djabuguy is assisting with the Barron Gorge destination brochure.
- Renewed focus on compliance plans in Northern region as on ground activity increases.
- Wangetti world trail meetings, local members were there and councils. The focus was on funding to advance the project.
- QPWS have been engaged in a taskforce approach to address further spread of panama – funds gained, working with stakeholder on how to proceed.
- The purchase of Earl Hill is progressing, it is likely to become a conservation park.
- Tourism industry, following discussions on Traditional Owner involvement in tourism, Dave raised a gap - many of us at the table have an advanced level of knowledge of this area, however tourism operators and others on the ground may not have such a high level of knowledge.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the government reports.

Actions

- Sarah Titchen to send Board directors a link to the new Assistant Minister's responsibilities.

3.5 CCC report to the Board

Anne Clarke addressed the Board and briefed them on the CCC meeting.

Thanks to Leslie for coming and facilitating the March Workshop – it was very well received that the Board saw the CCC as a worthwhile part of the Authority's functioning.

The new suggested format was well received and feedback was positive verging on enthusiastic. Thanks to all concerned.

Workshop outputs were imaginative but practical. CCC members understood resourcing constraints and the importance of utilising existing events to work through our own 30-year anniversary message.

The Board looked at what came up during the workshop and Anne advised some of the favorites:

- Bio blitz: where a large-scale survey is carried out by a contingent of volunteer community members on a particular butterfly or bird or other species.
- Wild talks: where you enlist leaders/specialists in natural science areas and make this a travelling road show throughout the Wet Tropics area.
- Legacy project: 30-year anniversary. QPWS was involved with this and we want to continue progressing these relationships.
- Capital Works Projects: could be badged as a 30-year celebration. Bartle Frere arrival, Tully could be worked into this.

Anne raised that having Craig Pocock from Skyrail attend was valuable. Particularly in group engagement discussions (e.g., sky rail has a taxi driver's breakfast monthly). Craig offered for the Authority to be an invited guest at this breakfast. Scott advised that the Authority will be putting together a display with Skyrail at the Airport to include reference to our 30-year Anniversary celebrations.

Leslie advised the Board to have a look at the list of ideas in the CCC minutes document.

Anne touched on the issues document – which includes a register of issues from the very first meeting of CCC. This provides everyone an opportunity to articulate/record priority issues at a grass roots level. This document will be used as a sounding Board as to whether the CCC are on the right track and to judge performance. The CCC is going through a process to review these.

- There has been increase coordination across the region – especially with QPWS, there is a lot of interaction occurring.
- Focus on Traditional Owner training/accreditation. There is a push from within the CCC for this to be kept at the highest level and work with RTOs to make this happen.
John asked why the Authority doesn't accredit them and the qualification can be branded as a Wet Tropics Accreditation.
It was discussed that the Authority isn't a RTO and it makes the qualification accredited/formal if you use an RTO. The feeling was that people won't invest money if it doesn't lead to them getting more money or a job.
Anne advised the CCC would like this pushed more strongly as the "the Authority Education Program" (that the Authority manages and an RTO delivers).
- Climate change context and building partnerships: need to work on this agenda from a World Heritage perspective and engage with GBRMPA.

Leslie advised the Authority is working hard to engage GBRMPA, however have not been successful at this stage.

Leslie suggested a joint Board meeting would be ideal, as there are so many commonalities and there needs to be a World Heritage approach to climate change.

Leah suggested taking a formal approach to raise the idea of a partnership with GBRMPA on climate change through IRAC – Leslie agreed it would be good on the agenda. John Courtenay suggested working with Wendy Morris as a tourism lead to help achieve this.

Phil suggested the Chair should write a letter of thanks to IRAC/GBRMA after attending the IRAC meeting.

The CCC has a focus on partnerships from highest level right down to grass roots.

Anne went through the key messages from the Workshop with the Board:

- Absolutely irreplaceable
- The world's oldest rainforest
- The birthplace of the world's songbirds
- Something for everyone
- Lifeblood of our region
- Millions of years of magic

Resolutions

The Board **noted** the CCC report.

Actions

- Phil/Leah to take a formal approach to arrange a joint Board meeting with the Authority and GBRMPA through IRAC.
- Leslie Shirreffs to write a formal letter to IRAC thanking them for having the Authority at their meeting.

3.6 Climate Change Workshop

Max addressed the Board to discuss the Authority's Climate Change Workshop, including:

- Members of the working group included John Locke, Leah Scherl, David Westcott, Susan Laurance.
- The working group suggested a broader set of questions to facilitate the workshop to address the breadth of issues. Proposed were:
 - What are the Wet Tropics World Heritage values to focus on?
 - What are the threats?
 - What are the impacts?
 - What is the long-term goal?
 - What is realistic?
 - What is the best approach to address challenges?
 - How to encourage community participation?
- Max talked the Board through the working groups suggested draft agenda and all ideas made and agreed to for the Climate Change Workshop. Including suggested panel members and themes for presentations.
 - Anne Clarke advised that the Social Science workshop theme is dear to the heart of the CCC and they have put forward the names of 2 panel members.

- Max asked if these had been provided to Terry. M'Lis to follow-up and ensure Terry has this information.
- Max asked Leah Talbot if she would be interested in being a panelist for the Indigenous Perspective workshop – Leah advised she would have to come back to Max on this matter. Leslie Shirreffs suggested Gudju would be a good person here, he has raised climatechange with her a number of times.
- Max said it was by the working group to have a person with traditional ecological knowledge of the Wet Tropics sit on each panel. Scott advised there is a traditional owner ecological network to source these people.
- Leslie asked in terms of panel members/themes; at the end of the day are we asking to identify suggested ways forward. Max responded, yes.
- Scott advised he had spoken to Mark Jacobs from DES and Ramona Dalla Pozza has been doing modelling, it might be worthwhile speaking to/including her. CSIRO do big landscape modelling, but DES are bringing it down to a regionalised scale.
- Leah added to Scott's comments are Karel/Simon connected to the NESP hub? They have responsibilities for World Heritage in terms of climate change, if it doesn't fit here there might be an opportunity to fit them in elsewhere. They are interested in exploring opportunities with Wet Tropics. New core hub leader, David (Earth Systems and Climate Change hub). Leah to provide max his name.
- Leslie asked how the group will determine who the Indigenous people invited to attend are? Leah and Phil to put together suggestions. Rebecca Lagerroth suggested Barry Hunter.

Resolutions

The Board **noted** the progress and actions of the Authority's Climate Change Workshop – Working Group.

Actions

- Max Chappell to discuss with Leslie Shirreffs who should Chair the Climate Change Workshop.
- M'Lis to ensure Terry has the CCC's suggested panelists for the social science panel.
- Leah Talbot to provide Max with the contact information for David the new NESP core hub leader for the Earth Systems and Climate Change hub.
- Phil/Leah to provide suggested names of Indigenous people to be invited to attend the workshop to Terry Carmichael.

3.7 Significant Correspondence

Media Releases

25th January 2018. Date set for Cassowary Awards

7th February 2018. Collaboration crucial for Cassowary Awards nominees

16th February 2018. Wet Tropics' future bright as Young Cassowary Award nominees announced

28th February 2018. Cassowary Award recognises Rainforest Aboriginal People's contributions 6th

March 2018. Final Cassowary Awards nominees revealed

Public notice

11th February 2018. (Public Notice) Invitation to offer – YCA field crews

The Authority's Correspondence

22nd January 2018. Letter to Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP. Tourism opportunities in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area

29th January 2018. Letter to Ms Jenny Lynch Abiculture. Letter of support – Proposed Waste to Energy Project for Cairns region.

20th February 2018. Letter to Ms Carole Sweatman Terrain NRM. Letter of Support for Terrain NLP2 Bid.

2nd March 2018. Letter to Jim Turnour Jabalbina. Thank you for submission on the review of Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998.

Incoming Correspondence

23 January 2018. Media release from Hon. Craig Crawford, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. New signs to alert motorists to incidents on Kuranda Range.

5th February 2018. Media release from Hon. Leanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and minister for the Arts. Fairy lanterns and lemon-scented grass among 20 new Queensland plant species.

9th February 2018. Media release from Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham Minister for Natural Resources, mines and Energy. FNQ water auction drives growth, jobs.

27th February 2018. Media release from Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk. Royal visit in April to include the Games, the rainforest and the reef.

27th February 2018. Letter to Scott Buchanan from Linda Dobe, Water Markets and Supply. Letter regarding Nullinga Dam Feasibility Study.

Resolutions

The Board **noted** the correspondence report.

4.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES

4.1 Regional Agreement Update

Rebecca Lagerroth provided an update on the Regional Agreement to the Board.

This continues to be a work in progress. There are still a number of actions that are behind schedule - particularly in terms of the internal review of government's role, although progress has been made with QPWS, more work is required. There are still conversations to have with State and Commonwealth government representatives to finalise this review.

Timeline on this review; Rebecca would like to present something meaningful for the traditional owner group on 24 March.

Rebecca provided a document to Board members, which outlined:

- Process to contemporise involves clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Authority and government departments. Doing homework on key messages that Traditional owners have been giving and investigating what policy/legislative opportunities will be available.
- At the October regional workshop, Traditional Owners nominated a Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) with members from I-AM, SAC, CCC, NQLC Board members and a Terrain representative. Rebecca is in the process of forming an agenda about discussions with this group and their role/terms of reference, QPWS will participate in this meeting too so all are involved from the beginning.
- Once guidance is received on a framework to move forward there will need to be negotiations with Rainforest Aboriginal People at a local level, particularly to honour original signatories and recognise native title landscape. The other request that came out of regional workshop was for the Authority to assist with a regional funding submission to support this work moving forward.

Rebecca worked through the document provided to Board members, which covered:

- key findings of recognition of cultural values
 - This is a high priority for Traditional Owners.
 - Significant achievement with Terrain who have increased their investment to Rainforest Aboriginal groups to implement on-country projects.

While there hasn't been achievement in some areas, there has been in others. In moving forward, the Authority need to:

- Support the TO led process to develop management plan for national heritage listing of cultural values
- Support the development of a funding submission to help Rainforest Aboriginal People's involvement in managing cultural heritage in the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.
- Include strategies for cultural heritage
- Participation in decision making
 - The Authority supports two Rainforest Aboriginal Board members and supports all Indigenous Advisory Members to meet their roles.
 - In moving forward, the Authority will continue with this support and look at ways of improving it.

- Establishment of a statutory advisory committee
 - With the dissolution of ARC, the Authority has continued to work with Traditional Owners and this has helped to clarify the way to move forward.
 - The Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) has been established and there could be shared resourcing available through the Authority, NQLC and Terrain NRM.
 - Need to negotiate new governance arrangement for the Regional Agreement, recognising native title governance structures.
 Anne Clarke asked if existing MOUS with Terrain support shared resourcing. Scott advised that the Authority don't have an MOU with Terrain, however ongoing discussions are occurring with them about this. Leslie added that new governance arrangements are what this is all about. The agreement to establish traditionally appropriate governance methods - what does the governance framework look like? It's not about a statutory advisory committee.

- Participation in policy, planning, permitting and management
 - It has been challenging without ARC support, however the Authority and QPWS have been working to engage at a grass roots level and it has worked. There are good guidance protocols at the back of the agreement and the Authority need to work through issues with people in this context.
 Wade Oestrich added, he is optimistic with relationships with Traditional Owners, although it is patchy. A lot of it comes back to how to manage this new reality with no ARC, lots of PBCs and increasing native title determinations.
 Leslie added, she believes many of the protocols in the original agreement (that elders signed) are very good, the issue is they have not been implemented properly. The Authority needs to say, are the protocols current? If yes, how do we implement them? How are they rolled out from top of department to ground and how does this get imbedded?
 A flexible model is essential in the Wet Tropics. The Authority's acknowledges that there could be opportunities for a pilot project in Wet Tropics to improve efficiencies and other agencies are interested in participating in this process.

- Aboriginal employment and community liaison officers
 - In summary, Rebecca pointed out some statistics on Aboriginal employment in (parks and the Authority) the Wet Tropics area, also information on diversity inclusion policies that are guiding this work and partnership work is being reinforced, however there are opportunities to look at how to increase Indigenous employment

- Education and training
 - There is good working happening here, particularly with arrangements with Terrain and supporting rangers with traditional owner knowledge sharing. There are unexpected outcomes from this investment and this is something the Authority want to continue with in the future.
 - Indigenous scholarships could be investigated moving forward.

- Rainforest aboriginal involvement in research
 - Have had discussions in this space about refreshing protocols for researchers using AIATSIS guidelines.
- Intellectual cultural property
 - Intellectual cultural property has been included in all contracts and agreements with the Authority, so is better represented now.
- Compensation
 - The Authority is not aware of any claims to date; however, Rebecca is working with the NQLC regarding future act notification obligations for the plan review.
- Funding
 - There is no additional funding to support implementation of this agreement. Partnerships with Terrain NRM have increased the rainforest aboriginal grants available.
- Intergovernmental agreement.
 - Commitment at last MINFO to keep working in this space and to promote collaborations and achievements through the media.

Rebecca asked directors to provide feedback, as the Authority want to deliver a meaningful message to the leadership group.

Leslie advised the agreement is a well thought through, historic document and the Authority doesn't want this to be a 5-year process. Has the agreement been adequately implemented? If not, what does it need to be implemented? There is only change needed where it's absolutely needed, there is no need for a whole new agreement, it's about how to embed and make amendments that Ministers sign off on. Leslie would like this agreement signed on the 30-year anniversary.

Leah added that she understands and in some respects agrees with Leslie's comments. Rainforest Aboriginal People created this agreement, why hasn't it been delivered by government partners? There have been changes but trying to get it put back in the forefront and moved forward is essential. The government need to make Rainforest Aboriginal People feel comfortable that something is going to happen this time. Because this wasn't delivered before, why would they trust it will happen now? It's also very important to acknowledge and respect the efforts of elders who put the agreement together. Rainforest Aboriginal People need to be part of the solution. John Courtenay agreed with Leah's comments.

Anne Clarke commended the Authority in conducting this review saying it would be seen as a positive response to the CCC's query regarding the status of the Regional Agreement recommendations. She also acknowledged the Authority's progress towards meeting the Agreement, exemplified by the appointment of Traditional Owners in senior governance.

Leah agreed with Anne that Rainforest Aboriginal People are never resourced to do governance or engage with government. Government like to have Rainforest Aboriginal People at the table, but there's no recognition of the capacity required to get people at the table. Resourcing needs to be looked at.

Scott added there is a lot of information here that is not directly part of the addendum, but it needs to happen in parallel so there's something that Rainforest Aboriginal People can agree to. The Authority would like to know whether the TOLG is the best way to move forward in terms of developing protocols/governance structures and redevelop trust.

Leah advised this is the best place to start. There's no ARC, the landscape has changed. It's really good to have NQLC stepping into this space, what we have currently is a good start to having conversations and exploring good governance structures.

Phil Rist added it's a starting point, the land council are playing a big role, which is great. The struggle is with capacity for PBCs. Years ago, it was less complicated, however times have changed and Indigenous organisations need to move and adapt to deal with this –it's a difficult environment to operate in. How to sort this out is the challenge and crucial.

Wade added that the government need to streamline conversations, in addition to this there needs to be collaboration on how Traditional Owners can make a living from their country while looking after it at the same time.

Sarah Titchen advised that the Commonwealth are a signatory to the agreement. It's an inspirational agreement that has stood the test of time. Sarah met with a colleague who worked in the World Heritage department when the original agreement was prepared. Sarah was shown a copy of the implementation plan prepared on the Commonwealth side and it did the things that Rebecca is highlighting could be done.

This document was produced in 2007 and has since fallen in the cracks. Sarah believes the Authority is talking about taking action towards the plan – the Commonwealth are interested in working with the Authority on this, especially in terms of recognition of cultural values and how to progress these as actions. For example, if a proposal of putting together a management plan for national heritage listing is something separate or imbedded as an update in the plan itself.

The Commonwealth want to talk about practical actions in achieving this. But noting that we are resource poor, so it's about finding pathways through the government systems to get something achieved. The Regional Agreement is aspirational, but it needs to be worked out how much can be achieved now, and how much in the medium term. The Commonwealth acknowledge they are a signatory to this agreement.

Leslie Shirreffs was very happy about these discussions.

Wade added that DES continues to be committed to the Regional Agreement. The Authority needs to remind other departments that they have an active role to play in delivering this agreement. DES has been working very closely with the Authority and the next stage is an implementation plan, so the Commonwealth need to be involved in this discussion. DES want dates on everything and specific commitments to the time frame, to help get things done.

The Authority has spoken to DNRM and DATSIP about their role in this.

Leslie Shirreffs believes the Regional Agreement is historic and that collectively governments have not implemented it as well as they could have. Indigenous people value the document signed by elders and now the Authority is reviewing the progress/actions and getting an addendum signed. It is important to honour those that have gone before.

Phil Rist agreed that it's good to have this agreement back on the agenda and would it be possible to have things confirmed by the 30th anniversary? It would be good to highlight it and re-cement commitment of the next 30-years on the anniversary.

Phil also suggested that the original Regional Agreement was signed, and work was done at a high level, however it didn't filter down and the people involved should learn from that.

John Courtenay advised that National Parks have a plan preamble. Is there a preamble attached to this? Can you change the intent to recognise what has changed since the agreement was first struck? Leslie Shirreffs thought this was a good idea.

Resolution

The Board:

- The Board **noted** the outcome of the internal review of the government's role in the Regional Agreement and the proposed process to contemporise the Regional Agreement.

Actions

- Strive to have an implementation plan for the 30th anniversary on 9 December and it needs to go to the TOLG.

4.2 Work plan for 30-year anniversary

Patricia O'Loughlen and M'Lis Flynn were in attendance. Patricia addressed the Board, advising that the team had included suggestions from the CCC workshop and went on to update the directors on the 30-year anniversary celebrations:

- ECO fiesta partnership and activities
- Logo to be used in branding
- Regional youth forms/presentations
- Science week activities
- Science in the pub
- Eco-art competition
- Short video competition
- Art competition
- Inspiring the urban arts with WetTropics themes
- Bioblitz
- Species week and bird week tie-ins
- Visitor Centre promotional materials
- Ninney Rise presentation
- Tree planting campaign
- Taxi drivers breakfast
- Clean up Wet Tropics day
- Legacy project
- Official 30-year anniversary event
- Cassowary awards 2019

Patricia also discussed plans for media engagement, communications products, website theming, media events and social media.

Patricia flagged there isn't a large amount of funding for anniversary events, so there will be budget constraints on what can be done.

A list of Environmental events and public events were provided to the Board, as the Authority is trying to tie in with existing events where and when possible.

Leslie suggested staff wouldn't be able to attend all events, however if the Authority had a travelling static display, it could be representative of the 30-year message.

Patricia raised tree planting campaigns, which the team are looking to hold before the anniversary date, in the last week of school. The idea is to have all schools in the region plant between 3 and 30 trees in their school area. The school will work with local revegetation groups, who will source the trees.

Leslie advised that she thinks what Patricia and her team are suggesting sounds great and she is looking forward to seeing everything blended together. Leslie would like to see more on the:

- Tourism branding
- Next 30-years conference
- Bio cultural walks (led by traditional custodians) that can be sponsored by organisation and people pay for.

Leslie also suggested a plan on which month to organise/cluster events is very important. Rebecca

suggested aligning the clean-up Wet Tropics events with the Gillies Range Road clean-up.

Leslie suggested having a tourism week, which featured tourism-based events (e.g., bio cultural walks, conference launching the new branding, taxi driver's breakfast).

The Board has been provided with a smorgasbord of choices and need to provide guidance on what they would like included as events.

Leah suggested in terms of communication that the RAN and Bumma Bipperra Media be included.

M'Lis advised that all public events, would have theming (a package of material) to promote the 30-year anniversary.

Directors want to ensure the team have events around the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, not just in Cairns - the portable display would assist in being at more than one place at one time.

Anne advised attending the regional shows arose during CCC discussions because you get a broader cross section of the community. Leslie suggested if the Authority has a package that can be provided to groups like CAFNEC, they could host events and provide the Authority's 30-year celebration information.

John suggested that 3-4 good ideas be pulled out of the document and become the focus of celebrations, otherwise it's too much and the Authority will be spreading themselves thin.

Leslie suggested 30th anniversary boomerang bags and asked if the Authority can capitalise/piggyback on the government phase-out of single use plastic bags? Angela Siggery advised she could raise this with the relevant State government team.

Rebecca Lagerroth picked back up on John Courtenay's point of doing three things well and asked if the signing of implementation plan for the Regional Agreement is one item what other events would the Board like to see? John suggested science in the pub.

Anne Clarke suggested given the CCC had an opportunity to indicate priority areas, the Board should have this opportunity as well.

Sarah Titchen advised the world heritage convention is on 16 November each year. Sarah is interested to know the dates of the MINFO and advise the group that if they would like the Minister to attend any events, a 6-month lead time is required.

The Commonwealth are ramping up Australian Heritage Council's social media, as such they would be happy to repost the 30-year celebration information.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Authority's arrangements for participating in the Cairns ECO fiesta.

Actions

- Patricia to send activity plan to directors out of session for comment. Director's to respond to Patricia with their top 3 to 5 priorities/activities for 30-year anniversary celebrations.
- Once feedback has been attained, Patricia to send finalised 30-year activity plan to directors for approval out of session.
- Provide Sarah Titchen dates of the proposed MINFO.

Friday 9 March 2018, day two Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Meeting.

Welcome

Leslie Shirreffs, Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the country on which this meeting was held and gave respects to Elder's past, present and emerging and also acknowledged all Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Leslie welcomed everyone back and advised she had seen Sir David Attenborough on the news and he told them his favourite place in the world is North Queensland – it has the most incredible rainforest with amazing birds and its right next to the Great Barrier Reef.

Leslie advised that Paul Chantrill will join the group this morning to provide an update on the presentation strategy. Other topics being covered today are funding, logistics for cassowary awards and an update on yellow crazy ants.

Apologies

Director, Iain Gordon advised he was unable to attend as he had a prior work commitment overseas.

QPWS are unable to attend due to flooding in the region.

Leah Talbot sent apologies for day two of the meeting, she had a prior commitment and was unable to attend.

4.3 Update on implementation of presentation strategy

Dr Paul Chantrill addressed the Board advising it's been an interesting period of activity for the implementation of the Presentation Strategy.

Tourism partnerships and World Heritage brand:

- Branding – working with TTNQ to develop a whole region approach to brand development for the Wet Tropics. TTNQ will facilitate workshops with the wider tourism industry to get input and support for the new rainforest brand.
- Authority staff will make a branding presentation to Tourism Events Queensland in late March.
- Authority staff have been invited to present to Tourism Australia – as the Wet Tropics branding and narrative have direct application to Tourism Australia's signature experiences marketing program.
- TTNQ have disseminated two networks, email opportunities to join cluster groups to discuss strategies/branding/marketing there is cultural one and rainforest one. Paul signed up too many of the groups.

Leslie Shirreffs asked if there is branding launch date/time? Paul advised there is no set time at this stage, as branding is still in development; however, he suggested that late 2018 to early 2019 would be realistic. Leslie suggested that the 30-year anniversary celebration could have an event to launch the branding as we look at the next 30-years. Paul will canvas this with local, State and national tourism bodies.

Interpretative resources

- The Authority is working towards finalising the World Heritage Families animations within the budget. To ensure this project is complete, the Authority is going to proceed with what resources are available.

The animation will be multi-format in terms of presentation so it can be used in all digital media.

Scott Buchanan advised that Skyrail are talking about redeveloping the red peak section of the tour and are doing interpretation there. One of the talking points will be the evolution of the rainforest – they are interested in utilising the Authority’s animation.

- At the last Board meeting there was interest in the development of a rainforest/cultural seasonal calendar, Paul has scoped this out. At this stage the calendar is being kept tight with rainforest descriptive resources showcasing what happens in the rainforest at different times. An Indigenous perspective will be incorporated where possible.

We have an enormous amount of information and photographs, but now it’s a matter of putting it in a digital form that will work.

Visitor centres

- The Malanda Visitor Centre has shown a lot of interest in the seasonal rainforest calendar. The visitor Centre does this informally (using a whiteboard). Volunteers are keen to see the calendar the Authority is creating. Drew Morta has provided the local Indigenous perspective.
- The Authority is putting together a brochure prospectus on the World Heritage Gateway proposal to appeal to potential investors in the Cairns Global Tourism Hub Project. The Authority is collaborating with TTNQ, DTESB and the Cairns Airport to gauge their level of support and seek their feedback on the prospectus.

Tour guides

- This has been a major focus and on March 16 and 17 there will be a Tour Guide Field School, the first on-country Aboriginal Field school run in partnership with Mandingalbay Yidinji (MY) people. MY Aboriginal Corporation received a Rainforest Aboriginal grant for \$10,000 to support their involvement and the enrolment and registration costs for up to 10 local Aboriginal participants. QPWS has also contributed \$10,000 to support an additional 10 Indigenous rangers to participate from across the Wet Tropics.
- Paul was also pleased to report contact with the **Cairns Adventure Group** (cultural tourism group). This is an emerging group who purchased many local tourism businesses and have a staff of 600. The group have purchased a RTO and want to diversify into guide training. They have been invited to participate in training work dates. It’s promising they are keen to support their guides to participate in training.

This group also own Reef Magic who employ 10 Indigenous rangers on boats going out to sea with Gavin Singleton’s group. They see having this presence (as part of interpretation) as important. They are open to developing experiences.

Leslie advised that what Paul has updated the Board on is very positive and directors are excited about the branding and how tourism is coming together.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the key activities that the Authority has progressed since the February Board meeting.

Actions

- Paul to canvas with local, State and national tourism bodies, launching the new branding during 30-year Anniversary celebrations between June 30 and December.

4.4 Wet Tropics Plan Review and alignment with other legislative instruments

The conversations for the plan review are 'in camera' and subject to cabinet in confidence, so they will not be minuted.

4.5 Update on Yellow Crazy Ant program

Lucy Karger addressed the Board introducing staff Alice Crabtree and Steve Brewer.

Lucy discussed the yellow crazy ant eradication program's successes, challenges and how the program is on track.

- Two sites have been eradicated; the latest site was a significant 21.1ha area. A third site is due to be declared as eradicated in August 2018. Lucy showed directors maps of the infestation area and explained what eradication means (no treatment for 2 years and have had 6 monthly absence surveys over that time). All remaining areas (1425 ha, of which 63.3 ha is in the World Heritage area) are under active treatment, which will begin in April 2018 after full survey rounds are complete.
- Increased vigilance has resulted in the discovery of another two areas of infestation. Both sites will be fully delimited before the April treatment round.
- Chis Clerc has been working on standing offer arrangements (SOA) – which will provide labour to support Steve and the field team. The people employed through these arrangements will be conducting hill surveys within and bordering the WH area. So far this year Steve and his team have progressed the World Heritage area surveys and made good progress despite wet weather. Six submissions have been received through this SOA process, it's expected successful tenderers will begin mid-March 2018.
- The team are ramping up planning for the NAMAC taskforce event in July – where local government staff cover 150 ha in one week - the group will be treating in creeks again.

Challenges

- Detections in cane. A meeting has taken place with sugar industry reference group members, increased engagement with this industry is required. The team are looking at holding field days at the end of April, to show farmers what ants look like, promote best practice and advise what farmers should do if they find ants.

Lucy showed the group a graph of what the cane treatment areas look like in hectares in comparison to the size in hectares of other treatment areas – the graph showed that about 50% of the area under treatment is sugarcane. The Board agreed this graph was useful.

Chair Leslie Shirreffs asked if Lucy was engaging a cane industry liaison person. Lucy advised yes, however the right person needs to be sought.

- The Authority is proceeding with procurement of a biosecurity specific cost benefit analysis (CBA), which Alice is progressing through the National framework provided by the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA). It will be paired with a reconstruction model that will provide information that informs on operational investment and the efficacy of treatment. It's anticipated the CBA will be finalised by June 2018.

The Board discussed in detail the proposed CBA.

- Through investigation, it has been shown that the National framework approach for the CBA for invasive species has previously been carried out by a very limited pool of specialist, two of whom are based at Melbourne University.
 - The specialists Daniel Spring and Tom Kompass have also worked on Red Imported Fire Ant BCA and other ABARES BCAs based in Nth Qld including the National Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program – so have specific expertise on tramp ants and WTWHA
 - The preferred model for the cost benefit analysis has been chosen based on the National Framework which also models cost effectiveness of different biosecurity responses based on the effectiveness of control products, current infestations and probable spread rates (including human assisted).
 - This data will be linked with an invasion reconstruction model.
 - The reconstruction model provides information on estimating the cost, duration and likelihood of eradication that will help inform adaptive management of the control program and funding needs.
 - Costs set aside for CBA is \$150,000 (although preliminary advice on the preferred model is that the costing is in the order of \$90,000).
 - It was raised that a competitive process takes a significant amount of time to progress, whereas a non-competitive CBA can be complete by the June 2018 deadline.
- Anne Clarke asked what the main question for the Board around this is. Lucy advised that she wanted to flag with the Board that given our time limitations a non-competitive process would be more timely. Anne advised that due to timeliness and limited risk and market, the team should be okay to enter into a non-competitive process.
 - Scott advised he liked Alice's proposed CBA because the framework being used is based on the Australian biosecurity system for invasive species.
 - In terms of the Cost Benefit Analysis the Board endorse the option that will get the job done most efficiently and effectively within accepted probity standards.

Is the program on track?

- The program is on track, in terms of surveys which contractors are helping with.
- Lucy acknowledged Steve for his work as the field coordinator– which has grown immensely.
- The team have been conducting footpath surveys in high-risk residential areas – to find ants. This is helpful in high density residential areas, where getting access to properties can be logistically very time consuming.
- On average 85-90% of treatment has occurred. What doesn't occur carries over into next treatment rounds.

What's important?

- To have the cost benefit analysis receipted by June this year.
- Risk assessment/zoning process: When reporting there is no middle ground between areas under active treatment and areas under post treatment validation. Lucy Karger explained the YCA team were discussing options to create a zoning process on criteria to show surveys have been completed and ants have not been detected for a certain amount of time – if the team can specify what is going on in different areas it will show real-time progress. Currently some areas under 'infestation' have not seen ants in 3-4 surveys.
- Funding: If the program is re-funded its likely there will be a gap in funding and the team are planning for contingencies – e.g., pre-purchasing bait, building capacity in the community and equipping farmers with skills in identifying ants and carrying out best practice biosecurity on their farms. On the other hand, if the program doesn't receive funding a transition program to moving out of treatment will be required.
- Leslie Shirreffs advised that the program was always proposed as a 10-year program and the Chair and Executive Director are having government discussions at all levels and the Board will discuss this further today. Leslie also suggested ramping up communications about the success of the program, so it has more awareness in the community. Community engagement is an essential investment in this program.

Steve Brewer ran through:

- Operational staffing arrangements
- Survey techniques and maps with GPS marked coordinates of treated/non treated areas
- Maps showing the amount of ants found this year compared to last year

Steve also mentioned that the use of GPS units makes planning, survey/treatment of areas more accurate and thorough.

Phil Rist asked if recent flooding will assist the spread of yellow crazy ants. Steve advised the operations team will carry out checks once heavy rains have subsided. The team will be checking from the hills to the mangroves, as there is a possibility of rafting.

The Board discussed rafting and the likelihood of yellow crazy ants rafting out to islands. The team advised the ants are easy to drown, however they have not researched the impact of salt water on the ants. Scott Buchanan advised that in Kuranda they conducted surveys after flooding last year and didn't find evidence of ants further downstream. Concerns were raised about the impacts on biodiversity if the ants were able to raft out to islands. Indigenous land and sea rangers patrol waterways and could be provided training to identifying the ants if the need arose.

Steve also showed the Board Go Pro footage from the operations team luring and taking samples of ants in sugar cane and riparian areas. Steve explained that the team take samples of other ants, to see what ants have recolonised the area after treatment – this is good for research purposes. Steve discussed the delimitation survey data from sawmill pocket. After 2 weeks of delimitation surveys – no ants were found in the World Heritage area, last year it was solid ants. The surrounding areas have also decreased immensely. The Board agreed the results are very impressive.

Anne Clarke asked how far past the boundary areas does the team survey? Steve advised 200 metres past the last sighting of an ant.

The Chair thanked the yellow crazy ant eradication program team, advising that their methodology is incredible.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the progress of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

Actions

- The Authority needs to provide a Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program update to provide a formal update to all members and ministers to thank them for their investment
- Lucy Karger to prepare a costed proposal

4.6 Significant funding bids and future budget issues

Scott Buchanan addressed the Board about how the Authority will pursue future funding and alternative funding.

This paper is to alter and attain advice from the Board about funding.

As Lucy mentioned we are coming to day 0 of YCA funding and to continue the very successful program we are going to have to go back to State and Commonwealth governments to see if they will continue the funding.

The NHT2 funding is being dealt with at the moment, it's going through a process where NRM bodies and others are tendering to become regional project managers, there is a bit of money for invasive species in the World Heritage area, but not enough for the YCA program – these are to support small scale grants.

What the Authority would like is the full 7-year funding for the remainder of the program, or at the very least getting funding for the next 3 years. A review of the current program and the CBA will provide a much better indication of ongoing costs.

Phil Rist asked if the CBA will identify economic loss. Yes, was the response, it will identify social, economic and environmental loss and what would occur if you don't treat the ants.

Showing the zones – not just infested and eradicated – is also imperative for reporting purposes.

Phil Rist queried reef trust funding and a connectivity between GBRMPA and the Authority. What if the ants could raft to islands after all the recent floods, there may be opportunities here for linkages.

John suggested the need for an information officer is critical.

Leslie would like to see the Authority set up for success so there is a platform of community support when funding is being sought.

Leslie advised the Authority should know what the absolute bottom-line amount to keep the program running would be. Lucy can figure this out based on expenses to date.

Lucy added, the lobbying can't be left too late due to gaps in funding previously. Leslie advised that the Authority will be going to MINFO in the middle of this year and they will a detailed proposal.

Anne asked why the pest CRC are not interested in invertebrates. She was advised that they don't have the capacity for this. Anne asked if the cost benefit analysis would sway this, Scott advised that the cost benefit analysis will show a cost to agriculture, social costs and an environmental value cost to the World Heritage Area, which is worth 5.2billion a year to the local economy.

Phil asked if the cost benefit analysis shows a cultural loss. This is something that the Authority should try to include it in the analysis. The Impact on Biocultural values, iconic species – Scott suggested Gimuy Wallaburra Yidinji could assist with this.

Phil then asked about the possible gap in funding – and if the Indigenous ranger program can be included here. You don't want to lose the skill/knowledge of the rangers; they are getting more into bio security.

Lucy, Scott and Chris have been talking to DES about getting rangers and offered to make a financial contribution to the ranger program, this is a great contingency. Phil suggested the ranger program be included in the CBA as it will provide employment outcomes.

The other part of this discussion is as a result of the IAM group and the regional workshop, Traditional Owners have asked the Authority to be part of a process to help them seek funding, which the Board supports.

Anne raised that the Authority is taking a leadership role to support Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples aspirations. Leslie followed Anne's comments by advising this is a Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples led process that the Authority supports. As part of the bid, Leslie would like to see some identified positions based in the Authority to facilitate the roll-out of the project and to ensure the Authority can support its implementation.

Phil said the relationship between Rainforest Aboriginal People and the Authority turned a corner and the Authority need to keep this momentum up. It's easy to slip and hard to gain it back.

Rebecca Lagerroth advised the Board the bid encompasses many suggestions including, Indigenous rangers and resources to support on country land management activities. There are resources going to Giringun and Jabalibina, however a gap is identified in the central area of the Wet Tropics and there are opportunities to build capacity in this area.

Leslie asked if an economic plan/program be part of this. Identifying opportunities for growing an economy from the ground up, with some small grants for start-up is important.

Rebecca suggested it's becoming increasingly clear that the full money can't be targeted from one source, it will need to come from multiple sources. Perhaps the action plan as part of the Regional Agreement will give certainty on direction and the different paths/opportunities being targeted.

With continual losses of funding over the years, the Authority has a legislated head of power to charge for permitting and assessment, Leslie suggested that fees and charges need to be considered.

Scott advised that it would be interesting to look into this, however, not to expect large amounts of money, it would provide a supplement. Scott believes that the Authority needs to look at self-

assessable codes going forward, because a lot of the work we do is assessing on minor and inconsequential activities that do not require permitting.

Anne advised that a two-pronged approach of moving to self-assessable codes brings the Authority in line with the rest of government operations, but costs need to be covered, especially on larger projects e.g., EISs.

Rebecca advised that Terrain has been a partner and put \$120,000 on table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement for 2 years and have alerted the Authority of a new way of tendering for State/Commonwealth contracts. Terrain have the intent to work for us, but they have to meet government changes.

Leslie raised that she is worried about how the Authority will continue to afford student grants? As we only give \$50,000 towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grants. As the Authority contract, tougher decisions have to be made to cover costs.

In response to this Anne said the Authority is a lean and focused machine. But there's a point, if you don't have the resources to engage and you become irrelevant. John agreed.

Anne would like to see a prospectus to look at how the Authority can engage with local councils, philanthropist, GBRMPA, Skyrail rainforest foundation and more.

Leslie added to this, as a State and Commonwealth entity, many of the activities we do are not appropriate to get sponsorship for, however in terms of community engagement and research grants, there are sponsorship opportunities.

Sarah Titchen asked if the Authority has engaged with Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)? Scott advised, No, the Authority has been a mediator. The Authority put small Aboriginal groups interested in tourism opportunities in contact with the IBA.

Resolutions

The Board **noted** the Authority's future budget issues.

The Board **provided strategic direction** to pursue significant funding bids that extend the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. The Board also **support** the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program to pursue a communications/community engagement officer and bring a communications strategy to the board.

The Board **support** Traditional Owner led management and livelihood opportunities in the World Heritage Area.

Actions

- For the upcoming MINFO (around July) Lucy to have a detailed proposal on what the Authority is seeking from State and Commonwealth governments for the YCAEP, coupled with the cost benefit analysis.
- The Authority/Board will lead the advocacy for YCA funding through the July MINFO and securing a communications/community engagement officer on ASAP. CBA is also a very important part of this.
- For the Rainforest Aboriginal engagement, the Authority is to take a strong supportive role –

with Terrain and NQLC will arrange meetings for TOLG and make sure a component comes to the Authority for us to roll-out programs.

- Further work we need is to start taking things from alternative/innovative funding for creative resourcing – fees and partnerships need to be looked at here.
- See if the CBA can include a ‘cultural’ impact on biocultural values, iconic species and employment outcomes for Indigenous people.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Cassowary Awards

M’Lis Flynn, Deb Simmons and Patricia O’Lughlen addressed the Board and provided a program and run sheet including timings for the event. The team noted that cancellations are starting to come through due to flooding.

It was suggested at a prior event that sponsors weren’t looked after, so the team are making an effort to provide recognition and are matching Board members with sponsors for the evening.

Duncan provided a media update to the Board, he also advised a videographer will be filming the awards and Duncan will prepare a video new reel. On Sunday a comprehensive media kit will go out with photos/video.

Patricia ran through logistics for the Board.

Resolution

The Board thanked the team for the work in organising the event and **noted** the information provided.

5.2 Board Governance Training

Kirsty Cattle provided the Board updates on the Board Governance Training.

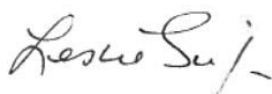
The board **noted** these updates.

5.3 Site Visit to Yellow crazy Ant Vickers Street operations base

The Board conducted a site visit of the yellow crazy ant eradication program operations base.

5.4 Board communique

The Board discussed and **approved** the communique.



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Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM
Chair

Date 08/05/2018