

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Board directors

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director
Ms Leah Talbot	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Observers

Ms Sarah Titchen	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy
Mr Craig Dean	Principal Advisor, Northern Parks and Forests, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Sciences
Ms Angela Siggery	Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Conservation and Sustainability Services, Department of Environment and Sciences

Guests

Mr David Edwards	Projects Chief Executive, Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development, and the Commonwealth Games (DITID)
Mr Steven Weaver	Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development, and the Commonwealth Games (DITID)

WTMA officers

Dr Sandra Abell	Principal Scientist, Planning and Conservation
Mr Terry Carmichael	Senior Project Officer, Planning and Conservation
Mr Bill Carrodus	Senior Project Officer, Planning and Conservation
Dr Paul Chantrill	Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Mr Brian Singleton	Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mr Eli Taylor	A/Senior Planner, Planning and Conservation
Kate Thomas	Meeting Secretariat
Mr Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Mr Hans Wurzel	GIS officer, Planning and Conservation

1.1 Chair's welcome

The Chair acknowledged the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and the Yirrgangydji people, the traditional custodians of the Cairns area, and paid respect to elder's past, present and emerging. The Chair acknowledged all the Rainforest Aboriginal peoples across the Wet Tropics region.

The Chair welcomed new staff, Brian Singleton, Liam Roberts, Nik Smith, Tanya Detto, Jeff Jackson and Jasmine Spring to the Authority, and noted it was very pleasing for directors have the opportunity to

meet with many of them during morning tea. The chair also acknowledged the return of Max Chappell and the resignation of Campbell Clarke.

1.2 Apologies

Director Phil Rist was unable to attend due to an unanticipated meeting clash at Giringun Aboriginal Corporation.

James Newman and Alison Webb, QPWS Northern Region are both travelling in the field and not able to attend. Craig Dean would attend as their representative.

1.3 Conflict of interest

I Gordon advised he works for James Cook University and noted that the Authority has a number of current contracts with this institution.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

2.1. Endorsement of Board minutes No 104

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for Board meeting No 104 as amended.

Actions

- Amend minutes to reflect Iain Gordon was absent from the meeting for board paper the yellow crazy ant presentation.

2.2. Actions arising

The Executive Director and directors discussed the Actions Arising, and the table was updated.

103/4.1 The refresh of the Regional Agreement is not included as a key deliverable of the 30-year celebration. While progressing well, there is more engagement required.

104/3.3 CEO for GBRMPA announcement pending. Timely to consider meeting for 2019 and opportunities for collaboration, including shared learnings regarding Indigenous engagement

Resolution

The Board **updated** the actions arising.

Actions

- Provide Kuranda Envirocare contact details for directors so they can be alerted to future (community) yellow crazy ant eradication baiting and monitoring events
- invite Sheridan Morris, Chair Developing Northern Australia CRC to future board meeting to discuss strategic issues.

3. REPORTS

3.1. Chair's report

The Chair briefed the board on her recent activities including that she:

- attended the Climate change adaptation workshop (discussed in detail further in the agenda)

- travelled to Canberra to brief a number of Ministers and Senators and advisors regarding yellow crazy ant funding. All were very positive sessions, and there is some follow work to do, including briefing Queensland ministers, and
- wrote a welcome letter to the new Minister for the Environment, the Hon Melissa Price.

Resolutions

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

The Chair **acknowledged** the support of Federal Member for Leichhardt, the Hon Warren Entsch for support of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and for hosting their visit to Canberra in August 2018.

3.2 Executive Director's report

S Buchanan addressed the Board provided an update on key programs activities since last meeting including:

- current work program is focused on delivery of the Plan Review, 30-year anniversary celebrations and the Regional Agreement
- met with Malcolm Letz and Tim Farry (Queensland Government) in Brisbane and provided them with compelling YCA pre/post treatment maps
- traveled to Sydney to present to Tourism Australia. A range of positive executive meetings occurred
- that the Authority hosted a NAIDOC breakfast table with a number of Rainforest Aboriginal female leaders in attendance
- that DES provided \$200,000 towards Regional Agreement work and support for policy approach to engage Aboriginal people. These funds will be used support a second regional workshop early 2019, which otherwise could not have occurred, and the
- NAMAC taskforce occurred (part of YCA delimitation). Some interesting statistics include: 76 participants from 14 different organisations and local councils surveyed almost 18,000 points, 215hs and 35.5km of waterways. There was only one new detection, just below an existing infestation. This is a phenomenal result, and well done to all involved.

S Buchanan advised of upcoming meetings and events including:

- attending Australia World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) meeting in Canberra in October, followed by an Australian EO/Chair WH meeting
- Queensland property World Heritage Chairs will meet in Brisbane later this year
- presenting at Pecha Kutcha talk in October at the Tanks
- hosting Science in the pub, which will be held early November. Dr Kirsti Abbott from UNE has been confirmed as guest speaker, and
- Arts Nexus (regional art/culture NGO hub) has indicated interest in developing a MoU with the Authority to formalise the informal arrangement we have now of sharing ideas and working on events together. They are also interested in having a shared role on the seasonal calendar – they can include cultural and eco art events.

S Buchanan acknowledged the hard work and effort from the staff over the past quarter. It is valued and appreciated. He also thanked officers in DoEE and DES Brisbane office their continued support.

Resolution

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

The Executive Director **acknowledged** and **thanked** the Chair and Directors for inviting staff to morning tea.

The Chair **thanked** L Talbot and P Rist for their involvement in the Traditional Owner Leadership Group.

Action

- send proposed 2019 board dates to Directors for consideration.

3.3 Director's issues

A Clarke

A Clarke advised the Board that she currently sits on the Kuranda Infrastructure Advisory Committee (KIAC). The committee is developing an 'app' with four strands - culture, environment, art and history. It also includes seasonality and spatial references for the Kuranda region. There could be opportunities for the Wet Tropics to get involved and use it as part of the Gateway approach. She will keep the board updated on its progress.

L Talbot

Attended an Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC), established under the EPBC Act meeting in Canberra. She advised that Chrissy Grant is also on the committee and that an international Indigenous working forum regarding World Heritage issues is starting up. Chrissy Grant is the Australian member and is establishing a domestic indigenous network. At that meeting they were provided a briefing about the Budj Bim National Heritage landscape, which is the first Australian World Heritage nomination that was instigated, lead and driven by Traditional Owners. The listing will be considered mid-2019, noting it was on the tentative list for 10 years.

L Talbot advised the IAC are developing an MOU with Australian Heritage Council to have a closer alignment and knowledge sharing.

L Talbot also advised that she is attending an indigenous climate change workshop in November 2018, which is being run by the NESP Earth System climate change hub.

I Gordon

He recently travelled to the Galapagos on behalf of JCU. He provided an overview of some work he has undertaken with the Galapagos Science and Research Ministry to provide science scholarships. Australia and Ecuador are two of the most mega biodiverse countries on the planet and they have a signed agreement between three World Heritage areas and then tourism/ranger training is a fundamental part of the delivery and underpinning this is research. He will keep the board briefed regarding opportunities to share knowledge.

I Gordon advised he was invited to attend a Biosecurity round table presentation on governance and the theory of change. He would like to weave a story around the YCA program to present at the forum.

J Courtenay

Currently working with GBRMPA to create a master guide training program for the reef. An international guide from the Galapagos Islands is helping to run the course. It may be possible that she could speak at an upcoming science in the pub. She would be a useful contact for Wet Tropics guides.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Director Issues.

Actions

- L Talbot to forward details of the NESP Climate Change National Workshop to I Gordon.
- I Gordon to talk with S Buchanan about YCA information for the Biosecurity roundtable presentation.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Department reports

Craig Dean, Northern Parks and Forest (QPWS) provided directors with an update on key on ground projects in relation to capital works in the Wet Tropics including construction of new lunch sites and shelters at Tully Gorge, good progress on track work at Daintree and Mossman capital investment funding for Goldfields Track (Goldsborough to Babinda area), Paluma, Wallaman Falls, and Five Mile (near Cardwell). Other projects include:

- safe swimming funding for Josephine Falls, with planning and construction work underway
- working with Tully Traditional Owners regarding a name change to Girramay National Park. A section of the park between Tully and Murray rivers will be renamed to Galmay National Park.
- working with Girramay people on signage for Cardwell Forest Drive
- working with Jabalbina to construct toilets at Jindalba and Dubuji (Daintree)
- working with Mandingalbay Yidinji on their tourism industry project for East Trinity
- teaming up with Biosecurity Queensland and Banana Growers seeking improved feral pig management to support management of Panama disease. A ranger has been recruited and dedicated to the program
- currently reviewing Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUAs) and identifying what commitments were made and how these commitments are tracking. This project has been driven by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. This has been a huge undertaking and a good exercise in terms of seeing what the commitments are and the next stage is about how to progress the gaps. The Authority is involved in this work

Angela Siggery, Director, Department of Environment and Science, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, DES

Angela Siggery updated the board on some of the programs underway across other terrestrial World Heritage properties in Queensland including the:

- Gillies Range Road litter campaign will be launched later this year due to an internal review on waste branding holding up the initial launch date. All collateral has been updated, and once approved, documents will be sent to stakeholders for final feedback

- Riversleigh WHA is preparing for 25th year anniversary celebrations take place over June/July 2019 and a strategic management plan is being developed
- Gondwana Strategic management plan has been drafted, next phase is internal consultation
- the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are travelling to K’Gari in October to celebrate the Queens Commonwealth Canopy initiative
- planning for the Queensland WH Chairs meeting in underway. The Minister will attend for one hour. Briefing papers being prepared include research, climate change, tourism in protected areas and traditional Owner engagement/participation. Chairs have been involved in the development of papers.

Sarah Tichen, Assistant Director, Department of the Environment and Energy, Natural Heritage Section, DOEE

S Tichen thanked staff, the ED and Chair for keeping the Canberra team updated on key Wet Tropics World Heritage issues. It is valued. Some other matters of interest to note include:

- 2018-2023 project agreements in progress, and should be finalized soon
- Working with her colleagues in PM&C particularly regarding Traditional Owner engagement in World Heritage management
- recent announcement regarding a newly appointed Minister for the Environment, the Hon Mellissa Price. The Hon Angus Taylor is the new Minister for Energy. Even though there are two ministries the department will remain as the Department of the Environment and Energy, and
- Australia is a member of the World Heritage committee (4-year term until 2021). The first meeting was in June/July 2018. There is a big platform of priorities here, including reviewing the nomination process for World Heritage; a stronger focus on Indigenous lead nominations and free prior and informed consent; and climate change.

Sarah is interested to see how deliberations progress on many of the issues being discussed today and the Department will be around the table more in the next few months.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Queensland and Australian Government reports.

3.5 Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) – Report to the Board

Iain Gordon and Anne Clarke addressed the board on behalf of the committees.

I Gordon offered for the SAC to develop a best practice guide that could be available on-line. This was not supported at this stage but could flow pending further conversations at senior officer level with DES. This should be a collaborative document.

A Clarke addressed the board and advised that

- there have been two resignations on the CCC. There was agreement for the CCC Chair and WHC Manager should consult appropriately, and identify suitable nominees for the board to approve, and

- the SAC/CCC community consultation representatives heard about the I-AM model and thought there were ways WTMA could improve on community consultation and a couple of the members produced a draft proposal to establish a WTMA Collaborative Governance Group.

There was agreement that the joint SAC/CCC meeting was very productive, efficient and effective. Ideas about sharing more meeting space was discussed. It was agreed that (at least) one meeting a year should be combined, however there was a need to both groups to deal with different issues; and the value to discuss cross-cutting issues as a collective. Authority staff noted the combined meeting was also efficient in terms of staff resourcing.

L Shirreffs provided an overview of the progress of the scientific research protocol. She updated directors on progress in developing researcher protocols in line with the Regional Agreement. A letter was sent to the DG DES regarding this issue, and a response received. It stated that QPWS supports the protocol in principal but is limited in jurisdictional capacity. The work remains in progress and good-willed conversations continue, maybe based on a staged approach.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the issues and outcomes of Scientific Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 August 2018
- **noted** the outcomes of a joint Community Consultative Committee / Scientific Advisory Committee meeting on 24 August to discuss and provide feedback on draft Part A of the Wet Tropics Management Plan
- **noted** there are two current vacancies in the Community Consultative Committee
- **approved** the Chair of the Community Consultative Committee, in collaboration with the World Heritage Connections team to identify suitable candidates for the committee, and
- and the board can **approve** these out of session, and

A Clark **noted** that she sent a letter to Seraeah Wyles in response to her resignation from the CCC.

Actions

- CCC Chair and Secretariat to proceed with filing the two vacancies on the committee.
- Invite E Bock and L Scherl to attend a future meeting to present their ideas about establishing a WTMA Collaborative Governance Group.
- Organise for one of the SAC and CCC meetings to be a combined meeting.

3.6 Correspondence report

Incoming correspondence

29 June 2018.	Andrew Millerd. TNPV in Centenary of Parks
13 July 2018.	United Nations. State of conservation of World Heritage Properties
20 July 2018.	Ellie Bock. Potential WTMA collaborative governance working group initiative
31 July 2018.	Seraeah Wyles, CCC. Resignation of Seraeah Wyles from the WTMA CCC
08 August 2018	Jamie Merrick, DG. 2018-2019 Budget
28 August 2018	Minister Leanne Enoch. Queensland Government target – representation on government boards by 2020
28 August 2018	Jamie Merrick, DG. Proposed Scientific Research Protocol between researchers and Rainforest Aboriginal people
28 August 2018 Wealth Canopy	Minister Josh Frydenberg. WTMA’s nomination - Queen’s Commonwealth
30 August 2018	David Williams, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment and Science. WTMA’s nomination – Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy

Outgoing correspondence

June 2018	WTMA. Rainforest Aboriginal News
4 July 2018	Michael Healy. Update on WTMA and YCA and ongoing funding
12 July 2018	Skyrail. Letter of support – Queensland Tourism Awards
20 July 2018	Lea Scherl/Ellie Bock. Potential WTMA collaborative governance working group initiative
21 July 2018	Minister Leanne Enoch. Update on outstanding commitments from the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement
21 July 2018	Minister Josh Frydenberg. Update on outstanding commitments from the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement
13 August 2018	Minister Leanne Enoch. Request for Ministerial Endorsement for Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy Application
29 August	Minister Melissa Price. Congratulations Letter
No date	Minister Melissa Price. Draft Action Plan – Myrtle Rust in Australia
No date	Newsletter. Tablelands National Park Volunteers

Media

12 July 2018.	Alicia Haines – Top Ten Young Leaders in 2018, Palm Island Voice
19 July 2018.	Cane industry stalwart joins fight against yellow crazy ants, WTMA media release.
25 July 2018.	Appointment of Wesley Moller, The Cairns Post.
14 August 2018.	Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce to target local creeks, WTMA media release
16 August 2018.	Joint effort on ants, The Cairns Post
16 August 2018.	Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce to target local creeks, The Tablelander
17 August 2018.	Yellow Crazy Ant to commence on Monday, WTMA Media Release
21 August 2018.	Crazy ants attacked in Kuranda, Atherton Tablelander
22 August 2018.	Joining forces in yellow crazy ant battle, The Cairns Post

Resolution

The Board **noted** the correspondence report.

Director A Clarke **noted** that she had signed a letter to outgoing CCC member, Ms Seraeah Wyles thanking her for her contributions to the committee.

4. STRATEGIC ISSUES

4.1. **Plan Review – Fees, refinement to zoning rules, update on OQPC drafting, Plan Review Part A, Pre-phase 2 consultation with Rainforest Aboriginal people**

T Wong briefed the board on the issue of fees. Since Board #103, the Authority has undertaken further analysis and re-thinking of the opportunities and risks of setting a schedule of fees as part of the Plan review process. Based on this work and external advice, and social equity considerations, the Authority are recommending that fees are decoupled from the Plan Review process, and reconsidered subsequent to the Plan Review process.

Directors noted that the Authority obtained some funds from DITID to undertake preliminary environmental advice (and desktop mapping) for the Wangetti track footprint. This is one possible avenue to additional revenue, looking into the future, noting at times we will have conflict based on regulating requirements under the Act.

T Wong updated the board on zoning rules, which had been approved at Board #104. These have been refined based on discussion with the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC). The board discussed zone B and zone C, buffers and management intent in detail, and sought clarification from WTMA officers as required.

Zone C were discussed. T Wong advised the main change here are the exceptions, roads passing through lands with exceptions ecological attributes will not generate a Zone C. S Buchanan added that the road can be maintained as existing infrastructure, however it would not be appropriate to widen a road or move the footprint because of the ecological value. Criteria for assessing road maintenance was discussed, including connectivity, integrity, aesthetics, proven and feasible alternatives, precautionary principal, community views and ecological values. S Buchanan advised the intent is to mitigate impact and damage to outstanding universal values.

T Wong reminded directors they approved drafting instructions at Board #104, and these were submitted to OQPC in July. Drafting has commenced. A number of questions have come back, in the main of minor impact, however they advised it was not possible to include a preamble (regarding Aboriginal Tradition) in the Regulation.

T Wong presented a timeline of work to date, including internal consultation, the development of strategies in Part A. The consultation with SAC was productive and as a consequence, threatened species are now included, and Plan Review consultation has extended to the agriculture sector as appropriate.

The TOLG also considered and reviewed the documents early September. Members were generally happy with direction. There was a strong suggestion to pursue an action about wellbeing and 'healthy

country, healthy people' strategy. Some members suggested it needed more information about cultural heritage listing to support Traditional Owners.

Pre-phase 2 consultation has commenced with rainforest Aboriginal people, including the NQLC. The Authority was able to advise that no CMAs will be overridden, in fact they will be implemented and enforced. T Wong noted that the Authority have committed to provide an early revised copy to NQLC to build transparency and the existing partnership that has developed.

Separate meetings have occurred with a range of other Indigenous groups to discuss development aspirations on freehold blocks they have under Native Title. Through these meetings Authority staff were able to engage in good-faith in-principal conversations about sorts of development that would be appropriate in these areas.

Resolution

The Board:

- **approved** that development of the schedule of fees commence subsequent to the Plan Review and that consideration of fees be confined to permits and mapping products
- **approved** the refined zoning rules at Attachment 4.1(1) subject to minor wording changes discussed and further consultation with local government and other linear community service infrastructure provider
- **noted** progress to date with OQPC drafting amendments to the Wet Tropics Plan Part A
- **noted** progress with drafting Part A of the revised Wet Tropics Plan, and
- **noted** update on Pre-phase 2 consultation with Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Action

- T Wong to send on Part A (as used in the TOLG workshop) to Directors and Government representatives out of session

4.2. Roads in the Wet Tropics

T Wong addressed the Board and gave an overview of the simplified road classification and hierarchy. These seek to formalise current management arrangements. Land managers remain responsible for seasonal closures and regulate the use of motor vehicles on the land. Management roads (used primarily for maintaining/accessing infrastructure) will not be displayed on zoning maps, and the Authority will keep a register of these roads as a reference document.

For roads that have fallen into disrepair they will be noted in part A as a potential road, if it's feasible to re-open and maintain, however a zone change will be required.

T Wong and S Buchanan provided an overview of the table at **Attachment (4.2 (2))** and discussed with the board a list of roads that are being reclassified. T Wong made it clear that the Board is not considering all the roads across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, only roads that were flagged during Phase 1 consultation process. GIS spatial analyst, Hans Wurzel provided maps to directors with examples of some of the roads under consideration, and these were considered. Directors were pleased with the principles applied, which removes bureaucracy and applies a consistent methodology.

T Wong advised the board he was seeking approval from the board to change the way the Authority manages the operation of motorized vehicles in the Area, noting we are often blamed for restricting access of motor vehicles when we don't regulate access.

T Wong advised that the Authority seeks changes to amend the regulation so the Authority will no longer have the authority to issue permits to use motorised vehicles (noting we do not regulate access). QPWS will manage roads under the Nature Conservation Act and on any management roads outside of the protected area, the authority can apply new permit conditions to community service infrastructure providers to allow access to management roads. In addition to this the Authority will add Aboriginal tradition for allowable activities of management roads.

Resolution

The Board:

- **approved** the road classification system for roads depicted on Wet Tropics zoning maps at **Attachment 4.2(1)**
- **approved** the proposed specific road reclassifications listed in **Attachment 4.2(2)**
- **approved** changes to the way the Authority manages operation of motorized vehicles in the Area, including:
 - QPWS will now regulate motorized vehicle access on any QPWS managed land (national park/forestry)
 - CSI providers will be responsible for regulating access to their particular Management road/s through permit conditions on the relevant maintenance permit
- **approved** the depiction of 'possible future presentation roads' in a map in Part A which allows for future roads to open.

4.3. Southedge Road (Quaid Road)

S Buchanan updated the Board on the Southedge Road. The Chair advised that more detailed assessment on a number of issues was required before the Board would be in a position to make informed decision. Directors were keen to understand the ecological and World Heritage values; impacts of the existing road, erosion, road camber, connectivity, elements of matters of national environmental significance and national heritage significance and other issue regarding the road.

S Tichen advised directors that additional advice will need to be sought from the Commonwealth government, as prior to the Wet Tropics Management Plan coming into operation in 1998, George Quaid's company was given consent in to complete the construction of the Southedge Road through the World Heritage Area under section 9 of the former *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* (Cwth). S Tichen suggested the Commonwealth would need to ask formally for clarification on this matter, and it would be best to receive this in a timely manner.

T Wong advised the road goes through the Mona Mona lease and the Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation rangers have asked the Quaid Pastoral company for access for management purposes, and to WTMA a permit to operate a motorised vehicle on the road. QPWS are the landowner. Commonwealth owns asphalt per the 1987 heads of agreement, which is old, but still stands.

T Wong provided legal advice from Queensland Government Solicitor General, noting that this advice did not consider the Commonwealth regulation.

B Singleton advised that Yirrganydji have a land trust at the bottom of this road. QPWS representative advised there would be a host of (public access) issues if it was converted to a presentation road for QPWS.

Resolution

The Board **requested** additional information and assessment on the ecological and cultural values of the Southedge Road, and for this matter to be considered at the next Board meeting.

Actions

- send Commonwealth representatives the outcomes of the additional information collated regarding ecological values, elements of matters of national environmental significance and cultural values
- write to DoEE seeking advice from the Commonwealth regarding their previous consent and implications for work, moving forward on the Wet Tropics Plan

4.4. Amendments to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*

S Buchanan briefed the Board regarding the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (the Act) amendments required to give effect to the Plan. In addition, a COAG decision to abolish Ministerial Council need to be addressed. Some work was done toward this in 2011, where an updated intergovernmental agreement was agreed, but not progressed through legislation, and so it is out of step with current processes. Three options have been identified in the briefing paper for the Board to consider.

S Titchen provided additional detail. From a commonwealth perspective the COAG decision is clear. Current thinking is that the COAG decision to abolish Ministerial Councils for specific World Heritage properties and jurisdictions was made in 2007, and the agreed revised intergovernmental agreement in 2011 did not refer to a forum of responsible ministers, and only referred to responsible ministers. In addition, in 2011, the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council agreed to be revised to responsible ministers not to a forum of responsible ministers. Currently there are 19 World Heritage properties in Australia and that there is a mandate for ministerial council for GBR, based on the COAG decision.

S Titchen advised that there has been a change to intergovernmental environment councils over the years. These days it is a meeting of environment ministers (MEM) that meet once or twice a year.

S Titchen has asked S Buchanan to clarify what the Authority considers a mandate for a Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum to occur later this year, referred to in an Act that was referred to be amended in 2011. Given timing, it would be useful to decouple a Ministerial meeting of Ministers with a 30-year anniversary event.

The Chair agreed, but the Board still required clarity on how to deal with this into the future and needed guidance from both Ministers.

The board agreed there is value in having Ministers with environment portfolio responsibilities meet periodically to consider strategic issues, which is a State (national) responsibility.

S Buchanan thanked S Tichen for her considered contribution, and that the authority sees great value in a forum with both ministers participating at a meeting and understand we need to come up with something that works collectively and is more efficient for everyone.

S Buchanan referred to the briefing paper and options for progressing the Act amendments. These mostly referred to Ministerial Council amendments. Directors agreed that State of Wet Tropics reporting could be done 5-yearly, as we are no longer reporting on the State of the Area and have moved to thematic reports. Directors noted that Commonwealth State of Environment reporting is 6-yearly, Outlook reporting is 5-year and UNESCO Periodic Reporting is 6-yearly.

Directors agreed with all of the recommendations under option 'C', noting there is opportunity to clarify other matters, for example nomination of aboriginal directors, definition of aboriginal people.

S Buchanan noted the inconsistency with Commonwealth Act, the intergovernmental agreement and about joint appointment of chair. These should be set out in a table as part of OQPC considerations.

Resolution

The Board:

- noted the requirement to amend the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*
- **noted** the requirement for alternative arrangements to be made regarding the Wet Tropics Intergovernmental Agreement 2011
- **approved** the progression of broader Act amendments to improve the operation of the Act, and
- **noted** the 30-year anniversary presents an opportunity for Minister Enoch invite the Commonwealth Minister to attend a celebration event.

4.5. Outcomes Wet Tropics Climate Change workshop

S Abell addressed the Board and provided an update on the outcomes of the climate workshop held on 5 July 2018. It was a positive meeting. An Outcomes Report has been provided to board members with draft guiding principles, key themes, management actions, gaps and next steps for the Climate change adaptation plan.

The board was supportive of the guiding principles and recommended the need to work with the World Heritage Connections team to develop a communications strategy that would run parallel to the development of the plan. This would help to pave the way for the implementation process, noting that we need be clear on the sphere of our influence, and where we can best contribute valuable pathways for action.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted and congratulated** the team on the climate workshop and the report on the outcomes of the climate change workshop held on 5 July 2018 (see Attachment 4.5(1))
- **noted and endorsed** next steps with developing a climate adaptation plan for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- Ask for **consideration** of a communications strategy that will run concurrently with the development and implementation of the plan and that we consider identifying in the final plan the risks and consequences of different levels of response.

4.6. There is no item 4.6

4.7. Ministerial Forum – Meeting No 28

Directors discussed a possible Ministerial forum meeting and agreed it would be a good opportunity to have both ministers available to discuss priority issues. S Buchanan addressed the board and advised it was still uncertain as to whether a 'Ministerial Forum' meeting will occur (noting item 4.4).

Directors noted that under the Wet Topics Act (QLD), the responsible Ministers were required to approve the draft budget.

Resolution

The Board **agreed** to invite Ministers to Cairns as part of 30-year celebration and advise that is an opportunity to sit-down and discuss critical issues about Wet Tropics together, including:

- o Refresh of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement
- o Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and funding requirements post June 2019
- o Climate change resilience and outstanding universal value, and
- o Review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

4.8. WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement – End of year report for 2017-18

Scott Buchanan addressed the Board that QPWS provided a report for 2017/18 year. Discussions have commenced for 2018/19 deliverables.

Directors thanked staff at the Authority and QPWS officers for the hard work on the agreement. It is apparent that the relationship is strong, constructive and both organisations committed to success.

Directors noted that funding has been the same as 2000 and we will push that this is increased, because to deliver on ground benefits to OUV we need to continue to pursue this.

Resolution

The Board

- **noted** the end of year (2017-18) report from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Environment and Science) for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Partnership Agreement at **Attachment 4.8 (1)**
- **noted** that 2018-19 is the final year of the current (2016-19) Agreement (**Attachment 4.8 (2)**)
- **noted** that the Authority has commenced discussions with QPWS regarding priority deliverables for 2018-19 and will soon commence discussions for a refreshed Agreement post June 2019.
- **congratulated** the Authority and QPWS for such a robust and productive agreement, and
- **noted** the \$1.8M had remained static since 2000, and there was a need to pursue additional funding.

4.9. End of financial year budget review 2017-18

Scott Buchanan provided the Board with an end of year budget for 2017-18 which is also the final year of the current five-year contract (2013-18). Budget papers indicate that we were \$10K underspent, but this will be adjusted as additional invoices need to be paid. This is an excellent achievement.

There were some great achievements for the 2017/18 financial year including commencement of the Management Plan Review and associated engagement, production of the Rainforest Aboriginal News, tour guide schools, BMM workshops, student research grant schemes, 2017 Cassowary Awards and

yellow crazy ant (yca) eradication. In addition, 38 training programs were undertaken to develop workforce capabilities were undertaken, some technical, and also mostly leadership.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the end of financial year budget report for 2017-18 (**Attachment 4.9 (1)**).

4.10. 2018-23 Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth

S Buchanan updated the board on the 2018-23 funding contract (agreement). This is with Minister Enoch to progress. A key deliverable for the contract is a strategic business plan, and we are pleased that there has been agreement with the Commonwealth that Part A of the Wet Tropics Plan will form the basis of the business plan. This will refine and streamline reporting processes. S Buchanan noted that the Authority currently reported quarterly on the annual plan, but with the new contract, we are seeking six monthly milestone reports to the Board. Directors agreed that a six-monthly update would enable more meaningful reporting on work program deliverables.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** that the funding agreement between the State and Commonwealth for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is yet to be signed off, and
- **approved** the Authority reporting on its work plan progress on a 6 monthly basis rather than quarterly basis.

4.11. World Heritage Family Animation

T Carmichael addressed the Board and showed an excerpt of the Wet Tropics World Heritage video. He acknowledges the partnership with Brisbane World Heritage team, particularly Tim Moore, in developing the product, checking script and sourcing high end footage of the Wet Tropics. At its core the video describes the biogeographic history of the break-up of Gondwana and how this has led to the development of outstanding universal values.

Work continues to launch this work in October 2018, pending production and additional animation content. The finished product will run for around 12 minutes. Components of the video and script can be used for the other Queensland WH properties.

Directors asked if Aboriginal People can be weaved into the landscape, and how the animation could be utilized for other (for profit) purposes, noting as part of the purchasing contract, it cannot be on-sold.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the progress to date of the World Heritage Family Animation, and intent to launch the animation 17 October 2018.

Action

- Follow up with DoEE regarding use of WH logo on the video.

4.12. Presentation Strategy update

P Chantrill addressed the Board and updated on key activities since the June 2018 Board meeting including signage review, seasonal calendar, potential MoU with Arts Nexus, developing a prospectus for a World Heritage gateway and regular connections with regional and national tourism organisations.

Resolution

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

4.13. Presentation and briefing with Senior officers from the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development, and the Commonwealth Games (DITID)

Representatives from DITID, David Edwards and Steven Weaver provided directors with a detailed overview of tourism and destination initiatives underway in the northern region. This provided an opportunity for the directors to ask questions about current projects and opportunities for alignment in this portfolio space.

Actions

- follow up with DITID regarding the opportunity to develop a tourism destination strategy for the region
- Liaise with DITID about participating on their regional road show program planned for late 2018
- write to the commonwealth (environment and tourism ministers) with aspirations for tourism destination strategy with outline of projects and estimated costs.

4.14. Update on 30-year anniversary celebrations

R Lagerroth addressed the Board and provided an update on the 30-year anniversary celebrations calendar of events. A very successful day was held at Carnival on Collins at the Botanic Gardens. In addition, the Authority are installing an exhibition at their Visitor Centre between December 2018 and January 2019, highlighting 30 years of the listing.

The Board discussed various ideas for celebratory event with the Commonwealth and State Ministers in attendance late November/early December. Various locations, dates, timing, and site visits are being brainstormed, and DoEE staff are liaising with Authority staff to consider viable and practical options, including on country options and good community engagement.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the revised 30th anniversary calendar of events leading up to 9 December 2018 (Attachment 4.14(1)), and
- **acknowledged** that additional planning work is underway once Queensland and Australian Government Environment Minister Availabilities are confirmed.

4.15. Update on the Regional Agreement

R Lagerroth updated directors on the work of the Traditional Owner Leadership Group. She advised that while it took some time for members to develop a clear vision of moving forward, due to different expectations as part of the processes, the group were working well together and clearer on how they want to move forward strategically. L Talbot agreed that the TOLG are committed and working well together. The NQLC have been good at providing advice and participating.

Draft terms of reference for the group have been developed outlining roles and responsibilities of the group, clear values, and code of conduct. They also have considered resourcing options and have asked the Authority, NQLC, Terrain NRM to review the terrain to review and provide feedback. They are giving

thought to the document required to refresh the regional agreement. R Lagerroth sought board feedback on the terms of reference.

Key items of interest to the TOLG that the board may be interested in at this point in time includes how the 'region' is defined, as the bio-cultural region extends past the World Heritage Area; the need to include economic development; and how we deal with climate change and biosecurity issues. These recommendations will potentially broaden the scope of the refreshed regional agreement.

In terms of the pathway moving forward and timeframes, the TOLG are creating a position statement and want to present this at the regional workshop in October 2018.

Directors noted the important role of our partners at QPWS and DES in this process and ensure they remain engaged, contribute, and support the implementation of the agreement; and whether it may be useful to develop ToR for this that outlined roles, responsibilities, and deliverables. J Courtenay reminded directors that of the importance of including the tourism sector in discussions.

The board discussed resourcing and support for the TOLG, noting the volunteer effort of a number of the members. There was some discussion as to how they could be reimbursed appropriately for their contributions.

Resolution

The Board **noted** progress towards refreshing the Regional Agreement. Thanks for this conversation, there is more work, but this parallel process needs to happen.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1. Confirm date for Board meeting No 106

The date for the next board meeting #106 has been tentatively set for 6-7 December 2018, however this may change based on 30 anniversary events and Ministerial availability.

5.2. Confirm date for next Cassowary Awards

The date for the 2019 Cassowary Awards is set for May 2019. If held earlier in the year, there is a risk of weather events preventing attendance from those that need to travel. In addition, sourcing venues in peak tourism season is costly. J Courtenay noted that the event was usually held later in the year, and that this seemed to work successful in the past.

Action

Ensure that all future Cassowary Awards occur outside of the cyclone season.

5.3. State of Wet Tropics 2017-18

Directors will be provided with a word version of the report out of session for information and comment, noting timelines will be very tight.

5.4. Approval of Board communique 105

S Buchanan will draft the communique for board endorsement out of session.

Resolution

The Board **approved** the communique to be written by the Executive Director and sent for approval out of session.

Other business

A Clarke noted that meeting times were being reduced from the regular 2-day meetings each quarter to 1-1 ½ days and that sometimes this did not allow for greater consideration of complex issues.

Meeting closed.



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Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM
Chair

Date 07/12/0218