

In Attendance

Board directors

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

Observers

Dr Sarah Titchen	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy (by phone)
Ms Rachel Garcia	Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy (by phone)
Alison Webb	Regional Director, Northern Parks and Forests, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Sciences

WTMA officers

Mr Bill Carrodus	Senior Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation
Mr Max Chappell	Special Projects Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ms Julie Coleman	Principal Project Officer, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Ms Patricia O’Loughlen	Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mr Eli Taylor	Senior Planner, Planning and Conservation
Ms Ellen Weber	Executive Officer, Business Management

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chairs welcome

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Cairns region and paid respect to elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged all Aboriginal Peoples across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on whose land this meeting is being held.

The Chair noted that the meeting would be inquorate until director L Talbot arrived at 12.30pm. Directors were advised that they would consider agenda items for noting until that time.

1.2 Apologies

I Gordon was unable to attend the meeting, as he had overseas travel booked, based on previous advice from the Authority about the timing of the December board meeting.

Phil Rist had travelled to Cairns to attend the meeting, but became unwell and was a late apology.

Leah Talbot was in transit from interstate and would be a late arrival.

A Siggery, Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Programs DES, was unable to attend due to other end of year work commitments.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

I Gordon advised he works for James Cook University and acknowledged the Authority has a number of current contracts with the university.

A Clarke advised she was currently working at RDA FNQ&TS as a project consultant.

2.0 MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

2.1 Minutes from previous minutes

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for Board meeting No 105, as amended.

2.2 Actions Arising

The Board discussed the Actions Arising, as updated, including:

103/4.6 S Buchanan advised he had made effort to investigate opportunities with Indigenous Business Australia with limited success to date.

Resolution

The Board **updated** the actions arising.

Actions:

- T Carmichael and Tim Moore to follow up with DoEE officers (International Heritage *via* Sarah Titchen) regarding permission to use the UNESCO/World Heritage logo for the WH families video.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Chair Report

The Chair provided a verbal update, noting it was the last meeting for 2018, and the first meeting of the new board. Congratulations to all directors on their re-appointments. It has been a very busy time for the Authority. Some engagements and briefings that the Chair was involved with since the last board meeting include:

- an invitation to speak at the TNQ Tourism Industry Excellence Awards
- delivering a presentation at JCU Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Sciences seminar series with M Chappell and A Haines on "World Heritage is our promise to the future – the next 30 years"
- speaking at the launch of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Plan in Brisbane, with Minister Enoch, which was a opportunity to highlight the challenges of climate change for the Wet Tropics
- an invitation from Gungandji Mandingalbay Yidinji PPBC to participate at the "reveal" of new culturally significant signage at Yarrabah signage funded through a WTMA Rainforest Aboriginal Grant
- attending a series of briefings in Brisbane, with S Buchanan about the continuation of funding for YCA and other Wet Tropics WH issues
- attending the annual AWHAC meeting in Canberra. This forum brings together Chairs from Australian natural and cultural WH properties. Key issues for discussion included progressing the review of natural properties for cultural values, tourism/visitation management, monitoring and adapting to climate change, and

- attending the QLD WH Chairs meetings with senior officials and Minister to discuss cross-cutting issues. This meeting focussed on adapting to climate change, meaningful participation of traditional custodians in WH management, myrtle rust and biosecurity preparedness, tourism and visitor management, governance and funding for World Heritage Areas.

The Chair commented that it had been a remarkable, busy and successful year and term of the board. She commended the leadership of the Executive Director and the outstanding efforts of the staff over the past 12 months.

Resolution

The Board

- **noted** the Chair's report, and
- **thanked** staff for their dedication and hard work over the past 12 months and for the support they provide driving and achieving the goals of the Board and the Authority.

Actions:

- Add board member transition to agenda for the 2019-22 Strategic Planning session for Board #107
- Send Chair's report to directors.
- Distribute relevant sections of Chair's report to staff.

3.2 Executive Director Report

Scott Buchanan briefed the board on significant issues since the last board meeting (refer to powerpoint presentation at [Attachment 3.2 \(1\)](#)). It has been a very busy time for staff with a number of significant (including 30-year celebration) events being organized, launches and attending workshops and meetings. Some key matters to note include:

- Amendments to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*. Preliminary advice is that this Act does not need to amend prior to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 being approved. The Board will be properly briefed once clear legal advice comes to hand.
- Restructure of the Department of Environment and Science. This has resulted in an amalgamation of some groups, notably Conservation and Sustainability Services and the Protected Area Investment and Policy Group, who we historically worked closely with. There are some great opportunities to collaborate with some of the new groups, as part of the restructure, as well as strengthen our relationship with QPWS&P, which includes the World Heritage unit as part of their brief. As of February 2019, the WTMA ED will have a direct line of communication to Ben Klaassen (DDG DES).
- Wet Tropics WHA funding agreement. The QLD Premier has written back to the Environment Minister and approved her to sign off on the five-year agreement, which is terrific news. Hopefully this will progress quickly through the Qld Minister's office. DoEE will be able to progress these in the new year.
- Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication update. A successful aerial baiting was held in October 2018. 1100ha was treated with 5525 kg of bait dropped. The team followed up with areas they could not capture by helicopter. A new YCA presence was identified at Mt Sheriden (9ha/101 residential properties) had been identified and already has been treated.
- Australian Heritage Grants 2018-19. The first grant round has opened (20 November to 19 December). The Authority will lodge two projects proposals, as well as support other project proposals.

- Daintree Power issue. Discussion are underway with DNRM&E regarding a (service provider) opportunity for the Authority to undertake biodiversity and WH constraints mapping in the Daintree lowlands. Hopefully this work will extend to cultural mapping as well, which would require the services of Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation.

Resolution

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

Actions

- Circulate YCA CBA review to directors, noting it is not for distribution.
- Send Skyrail Rainforest Cableway launch invitation (interpretative zone and multi-lingual app) to directors.

3.3 Director issues

No issues were raised by directors A Clarke or J Courtenay.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Department Reports

National Parks and Wildlife, Northern Region

Alison Webb, Regional Director of Northern Parks and Forest, QPWS, provided a status report on protected area matters across the region. Over the past fortnight, Parks staff and fire crews have been dealing with 35 fires across the northern region. In the Eungella region (Central Queensland), over 100,000ha of land was devastated by wildfires, including about 3,000ha of rainforest, which scientists say may take hundreds of years to recover. Heat wave conditions have eased but the teams are now working to ensure the safety of people and property on parks with Tropical Cyclone Owen expected to bring flood conditions to the north tropical coast. Some other projects and programs underway in the Wet Tropics include:

- upgrade of visitor facilities and Infrastructure at Tully Gorge NP
- feral animal management at Clements State Forest (horses and pigs)
- dedication of Earl Hill (Trinity Beach), including scoping of track with Yirrganydji Traditional Owners
- Wangetti proposal and feasibility of the projects
- passive monitoring (acid sulphate soils) at East Trinity
- capital works at Marrja boardwalk, Dubuji and Mossman Gorge
- negotiations with Eastern Kuku Yalanji and management of National Parks
- support for Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation to record the dendroglyph (carved) tree at Windsor Tablelands), and
- the recent release of the Threatened Species Audit Report.

Department of Environment and Energy

Sarah Titchen thanked the Authority for an opportunity to provide them with a brief. She congratulated the Chair and directors on their reappointments, and was pleased that this would provide continuity for Wet Tropics WH business over the next three years. Key programs of work underway at DoEE include:

- a 1-day AWHAC workshop in Canberra, followed by 2-day Australian World Heritage managers, workshop in Canberra. Over 80 participants from WH sites around the country attended, including managers, Executive Officers and Committee Chairs. In 2019, the program will continue to reformat, with a view to encourage greater indigenous involvement, additional interactive sessions, (guidance and support) workshops and breakout discussion on key cross cutting themes, such as impact climate change on WH.

- pleasing to be able to attend the Regional Forum at Mission Beach. It was a moving meeting, with a number of the original signatories to the 2005 Regional Agreement attending. They have briefed the Minister on the refresh of the Regional Agreement and are waiting for a response.
- providing advice to the Planning and Conservation Team on the review Wet Tropics Management Plan
- launch of the Australian Heritage Grants Program, noting that due to probity issues, staff at DoEE were able to provide any information or advice and that all enquiries should be directed to the grant's hub through the business.gov.au website.
- apologized on behalf of the department for not being able to have a presence at the 30 year anniversary event at the Botanic Gardens

Resolution

The Board

- **noted** the government department reports, and
- **thanked** the departmental representatives for their active and valuable contributions over the past 12 months.

Actions

- T Wong to contact DoEE about timelines for the Plan Review so that they are able to provide legal team advice on when to expect documents to review.
- Continue to send DoEE team WH marketing, social posts and speeches so that they are able to repost and share on their social media sites.

3.5 Community Consultative Committee Report to the Board

Anne Clarke provided directors with brief on the outcomes of the CCC meeting held 1 November 2018. She advised that members of the committee, Siggy Heise-Pavlov and Alan Gillanders were invited to attend the launch of the Gillies Range Road anti-litter campaign. The CCC were instrumental in alerting the Department of Environment and Science on the negative impact on the rainforest ecosystems and wildlife of dumped items and litter on this otherwise scenic road that winds its way through World Heritage rainforests between the Tableland and Gordonvale, and is home to threatened species. Siggy Heise-Pavlov is keen for the Authority to take a stronger role in the campaign to clean up litter on the Gillies Range, noting DES is the responsible lead agency.

CCC Members are very enthusiastic for youth education to take a higher profile within the Authority and were keen to have input to develop tangible projects. Directors were supportive of this, noting that any initiative should be imbedded in the 2019-2030 Strategic Plan.

Directors were updated on the status of filling current (two) vacancies on the CCC, one being an indigenous identified position. They were keen to have the youth sector represented on the CCC.

A number of members raised concerns about road maintenance permits, particularly how vegetation was managed along roadsides. Various locations were mentioned including the Palmerston Highway, the Gillies Range Road, Atherton Tablelands, Daintree and Paluma. Other members of the CCC raised concerns about the EOI for ecotourism proposals for Hinchinbrook Island (which is part of the GBRWHA).

Resolution

The Board

- **noted** the outcomes of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting held on the 1st November 2018, and

- **thanked** CCC members for highlighting the issue of illegal dumping of waste on the Gillies Highway.

Actions

- Send CCC members an information sheet (or briefing) to members at their next meeting on how the Authority works with CSI providers regarding maintenance permit conditions, training provided and codes of practice, and our responsibilities.
- Include climate change as an issue for discussion at 2019 joint SAC/CCC meeting.
- Look for opportunities for Board to visit Dennis Akee business (cane farm at Gordonvale) to look at how they are using carbon credits to reinvest into Aboriginal employment.

3.6 Scientific Advisory Committee Report to the Board

Tim Wong and Sandra Abell provided the SAC update to the Board including:

- a presentation from Sheriden Morris, Managing Director, RRRC about Wet Tropics science and knowledge projects in the next round of funding
- an update on the connectivity strategy and opportunities to link with the Land Restoration Fund to develop a 'revegetation decision support tool'.
- the proposed framework for the Climate Change Adaption Plan. The board were keen for the adaption plan to communicate how we will work with the community to build strong foundations for long-term adaptation over the next decade, including establishing planning and governance frameworks; enhancing landscape resilience, empowering key research and other collaborators through evidence-based knowledge and capacity building, and
- an update on the scientific research permitting protocols.

Resolution

The Board

- **Noted** the agenda from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting 26th October at Attachment 3.6 (1), and
- **Endorsed** the progress and next steps of four key work program initiatives (connectivity, climate change, researcher protocols and fire management)

Actions

- Prepare a 2- page prospectus in preparation for the next round of funding for science research and knowledge projects in the Wet Tropics
- Contact J Locke about clan based mapping and see how it can fit into researcher protocols, as well as progressing through an Australian Heritage Grant

3.7 Significant correspondence

Media releases

15 December 2018 Draft release. 30 years of Wet Tropic World Heritage listed commemorated at ceremony

Correspondence in

3 October 2018 Letter from Minister Enoch regarding outstanding commitments for the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement.

5 October 2018 Letter from David Williams, Assistant Secretary, DoEE regarding proposal for Tourism Destination Development Plan for the Wet Tropics

9 October 2018 Letter from Minister Enoch confirming endorsement of the YCA program to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

22 October 2018 Letter from Minister Enoch to Toddy Hartley (Choice Australia Management) and service provider for YCA

25 October 2018 Letter from Minister Price acknowledging congratulations letter from WTMA Chair

1 November 2018 Letter to Ian Poiner, Chair GBRMPA congratulating on his appointment

7 November 2018 Council support for the yellow crazy ant eradication program

Correspondence out

17 September 2019 Letter to Minister Price regarding tourism destination Development Plan for the Wet Tropics WHA.

17 October 2018 Letter of support for Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in its application for funding for Looking after Country Grants

16 November 2019 Letter to Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Stakeholder feedback and comments on draft tourism strategy

23 November 2018 Letter to Terrain NRM, support for kick-starting Cassowary Credits.

Miscellaneous

12 October 2018 Funding splash for international rafting championships at Tully

8 November 2018 Draft Agenda and briefing papers for Meeting of Chairs of QLD Terrestrial WH Advisory committees and the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board

22 November 2018 AWHAC Teleconference draft minutes

23 November 2018 Gondwana Rainforests of Australia WHA Draft Strategic Management Framework

7 December 2018 AWHAC meeting dates 2019

5 December 2018 Draft Project Proposal (Land Restoration Fund Program) to improve resilience of We Tropics Landscapes

5 December 2018 Wet Tropics Report Card 2018

14 December 2018 Running sheet for the 30-year anniversary celebrations at Cairns Botanic Garden.

4.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES

4.1 Wet Tropics Management Plan Review

Tim Wong addressed the board and provided an update on the status of Part A and Part B of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Management Plan, timelines and key components of phase two consultation.

Good progress had been made on Part A since the previous board meeting, based on feedback from the TOLG, QPSW, SAC and CCC. This includes - realising benefits of partnerships with Rainforest Aboriginal people, rehabilitation of degraded areas, threatened species management, and ensuring the Authority's legislative context is contemporary and best practice. These have been inserted as additional actions. Key Performance Indicators, based on outcomes (KPIs) are currently being workshopped and refined.

The Board discussed and considered Part B (Wet Tropics Plan of management), particularly updates and/or amendments since their last briefing, including:

- the rules, logic and management intent and purpose applied for zones a to c (noting previously what was zone d has been subsumed into zone c)
- feedback from a FNQ ROC road planners' meeting regarding presentation roads not generating a zone c
- agreement that CMAs would be depicted as an overlay on zoning maps
- allowances for a (new) guideline to be developed that clearly define minor change to a zone boundary, having regard for the size of land being affected, type of activity proposed and likely impact
- reclassification and hierarchy (classes) of roads; and no longer depicting roads on zoning maps
- noting that there were access corridors and historic snig tracks (not gazetted or designated) existed on private and public lands in the WHA, which could be referred to in Part A of the Plan via a map database
- how to deal with a request from CRC and TRC to operate motor vehicles on two CSI roads for commercial/presentation purposes
- an updated list of undesirable plants and animals (under Schedule 2 of the Plan) was being developed; and that if a person was conducting an activity prior to the commencement of the 2019 amendment plan, a permit may be issued to continue this activity
- proposed definitions of 'limited visitor infrastructure' and 'developed visitor infrastructure', and
- the proposal to regulate reconfiguration of a lot within the WHA and how this issue will be managed.

Resolution

The Board:

- **Approved** the draft Wet Tropics Management Plan (Part A and Part B) to be released for Phase 2 consultation in early February 2019
- **Approved** commencement of Phase 2 public consultation early February until 31 March 2019
- **Noted** key issues that may be raised by stakeholders during Phase 2 consultation
- **Noted** some key components of Phase 2 consultation approach, and
- **Supported** moving forward with reconfiguring a lot prohibition and then to add a provision for permitting under section 33, supported by clear communication on streamlined approaches including CMAs (that recognise appropriate planning processes such as master plans).

Actions

- Send draft Key Performance Indicators to directors for comment OOS.

- Send draft CMA guideline to directors OOS once it has been finalised.

4.2 Southhedge Road

M Chappell and B Carrodus addressed the board and provided a briefing on the Southhedge Road (also known as Quaid Road). Southhedge Road is currently classified as a 'management' road under the zoning scheme of the current *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* (the Plan), which means that it may only be used for community services infrastructure maintenance purposes, conservation or scientific research, and it is not open for public use. The road manager Southhedge Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd has requested that the road should be zoned C within 50m of its centreline on the basis that the land meets the definition set out in section 16 of the Plan (land on which or adjacent to which there is disturbance associated with community services infrastructure).

This issue was considered at Board #105, but additional information was required for the board to make a final resolution.

The Authority has advised Mr Quaid that the Board will provide a response to this submission prior to commencement of Phase 2 public consultation.

Resolution

The Board

- **appreciated** that Southhedge Pastoral Company (SPC) elected to put in a late submission to the Plan Review through RPS
- **noted** that SPC had not put a properly made submission during phase 1 of the public consultation process and the Board thought it appropriate to invite them to put in a late submission prior to considering the draft Plan for release for Stage 2 of the public consultation process
- **considered** the belief put by SPC that Southhedge Road meets the definition of zone as community services infrastructure (CSI), however, did not support that a private access under permit constitutes CSI. Further, given its importance in the Black Mountain Corridor (BMC) which has high level of connectivity values, integrity and examples of outstanding universal values, the Board chose not to re-designate the area as zone C in the consultation draft plan (stage 2 consultation)
- **indicated** SPC would have a further opportunity to provide a submission during stage 2 public consultation, and
- **noted** the Authority's position to retain Southhedge Road (also known as Quaid Road) as a management access under the draft Wet Tropics Amendment Plan 2019, and
- **approved** that a letter be sent to SPC advising of the Board's considerations (at **Attachment 4.2 (4)**).

Actions

- Authority to liaise with DoEE regarding the regulation under the Commonwealth *Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Conservation Act 1994*.

4.3 Outcomes of the Rainforest Aboriginal people's regional forum

Scott Buchanan addressed the board and provided a summary report on from the Rainforest Aboriginal regional forum held 19-20 October 2018 at Mission Beach. It was a very successful meeting with good discussions; a number of important resolutions passed; and actions identified regarding the Implementation Agreement to contemporise the Regional Agreement, research protocols, and the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review. The Traditional Owner Leadership group were given the remit at the forum to progress this work.

Directors were advised that the Authority involve senior QPWS officers in the northern region regarding this program of work, however there continues to be limited DES - QPWS participation at the leadership and policy level at meetings. The DES restructure should be finalised by February 2019 and it is anticipated this will provide more certainty regarding appropriate senior contacts.

Resolution

The board **noted** the summary report of resolutions and actions from the Rainforest Aboriginal peoples' regional forum held on the 19-20 October 2018 at Mission Beach.

4.4 Confirmation of Board dates for 2019

Directors considered the draft calendar for 2019 dates for board meetings and significant events.

Resolution

The board **approved** the proposed dates and locations for the Board meetings held in 2019.

4.5 Board induction for incoming directors

S Buchanan and E Weber provided an induction session for directors. They advised that the documents were previously provided to directors at their 2015 induction session.

Directors noted that operating guideline No 19 was refreshed to extend the protocol to include contractors, and to use new branding style and guidelines, and to include a 3-year review date. They were also pleased to have staff profiles provided as a useful reference.

Resolution

The board:

- **Noted** the following organizational induction and information documents:
 - Welcome Aboard: A guide for members of Queensland Government Boards, committees and statutory bodies (**Attachment 4.5 (1)**)
 - Remuneration of Part-Time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities (**Attachment 4.5 (2)**)
 - Information for Statutory Bodies: Legislation, Policies and **Guidance (Attachment 4.5 (3))**
 - Wet Tropics Management Authority – our organisation and objectives 2019 edition (**Attachment 4.5 (4)**)
 - WTMA Staff profiles December 2018 (**Attachment 4.5 (5)**), and

- **Endorsed** the Internal Operating Guideline 19: Protocol for communications between directors and Authority staff (**Attachment 4.5 (6)**).

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 30-year anniversary celebrations


Patricia O’Loughlen addressed the board and provided an overview of the event, including run sheet, speeches, activities and invited guests.

5.2 Board communique

The Executive officer advised that the communique would be finalised and circulated for comment and endorsement from directors prior to distribution to stakeholders.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the communique would be sent to directors for comment prior to approval.



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Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM
Chair

Date 20/02/2019