

In Attendance**Board directors**

Ms. Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms. Anne Clarke	Director
Mr. John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director (by phone)
Mr. Phil Rist	Director
Mr. Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Observers

Dr Sarah Titchen	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment and Energy (items 1.1 to 5.2)
Mr. Wade Oestreich	Special Advisor, Adventure and Nature Based Tourism Opportunities Program, DES
Ms. Cheryl Leavy	Executive Director, Cultural Capabilities and Connections, QPWS&P DES(item 5.3)
Ms. Ange Siggery	Director, Cultural Capabilities and Connections, QPWS&P
Ms. Alison Webb	Regional Director, Northern Region, QPWS&P, DES

Guests

Ms. Roz Walden	CAFNEC Director (item 4.2)
Mr. Denis Walls	CAFNEC President (item 4.2)
Assoc Prof Peter Valentine	CAFNEC member (item 4.2)

WTMA officers

Mr. Angus McLeod	A/Senior Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation
Ms. Julie Coleman	Principal Project Officer, Planning and Conservation
Mrs. Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Ms. M'Lis Flynn	Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mr. Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ms. Ellen Weber	Executive Officer, Business Management
Mr. Sean McNamara	A/Executive Officer, Business Management

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**1.1. Chair's welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Cairns region paying respect to Elder's past, present and emerging, and acknowledged all Aboriginal Peoples across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies from Dr L Talbot who is working interstate and unable to attend.

Apologies received from P Rist who has an external commitment and is only able to attend the morning session.

1.3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

2.0 MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

2.1 Minutes from previous minutes

Resolution

The Board endorsed the minutes from Board meeting No 107.

2.2 Actions Arising

Resolution

The Board noted the actions arising, as updated.

3. REPORTS

3.1. Chair's Report

The Chair provided a report with the following matters of interest to note:

- there has been a strong (and positive) response to the climate activities. She has briefed various local MPs (State and Commonwealth), Minister Enoch, DoEE officials, GBRMPA Chair, senior DES officers, and RRRRC on the 10-point Plan. The release of the climate statement and the 10 Point Plan also generated broad media coverage local, regionally, and nationally.
- spoke with Dr Ian Poiner, Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and planning a joint Board dinner in June
- met with Terrain NRM to discuss collaboration on climate response and to plan a potential future joint Board meeting.
- attended a TOLG meetings in March and May. The Chair acknowledged the very hard work of the TOLG
- participated in an Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) teleconference in May. An AWHAC climate change working group (of which she is a member) has been formed and is currently conducting a survey of all properties to better understand common and individual issues
- met with Sheriden Morris, Managing Director of the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and Chair of the CRC Developing Northern Australia regarding future research partnerships and advocacy for Wet Tropics issues

- met with the Hon Kate Jones, Minister for Tourism to discuss Wet Tropics visitation and the Advance Queensland Innovation Fund
- met with Dr Chris Sarra, Director-General for Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) to discuss the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement refresh and accept an invitation for senior officer involvement at the May Rainforest Aboriginal Regional Forum
- met with officers of the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to discuss climate initiatives, Climate Week, and the Biodiversity Strategy.

Resolution

The Board noted the Chair's report.

3.2. Executive Director Report

Scott Buchanan briefed the board on significant issues since Board 107. Key matters to note include:

- the Cassowary Awards have been sponsored to the value of \$24,500, including \$6,000 in-kind. This is \$4,000 short of the target.
- the Authority received \$200K in State government Priority Initiative funding to progress the Regional Agreement for 2018-19. There is still a body of work to deliver with our partners to support the TOLG post June 2019.
- Biosecurity Queensland will supply a yellow crazy ant sniffer dog to the Authority, inclusive of staff training for handling the dog.
- the Authority received a Commonwealth funding commitment of \$9 million over 3 years for the YCAEP and is currently awaiting news on the state's commitment.
- yellow crazy ant aerial baiting of approx. 350ha of 1700ha was conducted after several rain delays. There are large areas are moving towards transition.
- the QPWS Partnership Agreement will be renegotiated, and the Authority is currently investigating potential projects to be delivered under the funding
- the Authority will supply an 2019-20 Annual Business Plan to the Commonwealth Government as first milestone in the release of funding
- Authority staff, E Weber and H Wurzel joined Western Yalanji rangers in a visit to the site of an important carved tree. The visit was for the creation of a mould to enable the development of a 3D depiction of the carving being produced with the support of the Queensland Museum.

Resolution

The Board noted the Executive Director's report.

3.3. Director's issues

Ms. Anne Clarke

- recently facilitated the Russell Catchment Sustainable Plan meeting. The planning was a grassroots / community led process strongly focused on sustainable land use and connectivity across the catchment. The Authority should remain connected to this program as it may present future opportunities, for example, through ridge to reef approaches, and
- is working with the Steiner School in Kuranda on a reef and rainforest intensive learning unit which incorporates a strong World Heritage focus. The idea is to design a program which can be readily picked up and used in other schools or settings

Mr. John Courtenay

Provided an overview of the Tourism Roundtable held on the morning of the 28th of May and noted:

- a number of members expressed surprise that they were not alerted prior to the 10 Point Plan and thought there would have been a press release, and
- members would like to manage the media for this issue in more effectively than it was handled for climate change issues about the Great Barrier Reef, and agreed there are benefits to collaboration and approach the media with a communications plan

Resolution

The Board noted the director reports.

3.4. Queensland and Commonwealth Department Reports

Dr Sarah Titchen – Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy

Thanked the Authority for the opportunity to provide a briefing. Some points of interest include:

- DoEE will participate at the Rainforest Aboriginal Regional Forum in May and was pleased to join the TOLG meeting by teleconference.
- there will be post-election changes to the Commonwealth environment and climate related portfolios, including the appointment of the Hon Warren Entsch as the Great Barrier Reef envoy.
- work will commence on a new project agreement for the YCAEP funding with advice from the Biodiversity Conservation Division. It will be signed by both Commonwealth and State Ministers
- congratulated the Authority in their successful Australian Heritage Grant proposal for the development of a Wet Tropics Tourism Destination Development Plan.
- a grants opportunity guideline is currently being developed to assist in writing grant applications
- a new Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) process is underway in which a panel will examine applications for new IPAs in late June 2019. An announcement is expected in July.
- the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting will be held from 30 June – 10 July in Azerbaijan, with Stephen Oxley leading the Australian delegation
- the review of the World Heritage policy on climate change has been delayed, likely until 2020, due to

issues finding suitable consultants. DoEE has a strong interest in climate change adaptation planning and requests that the Authority keeps them updated on their climate activities and the AWHAC climate change survey, and

- the World Heritage Forum is scheduled for 25 - 26 September 2019 which will include a half or full day to discuss climate change.

Angela Siggery –Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES)

- the governance review of committees for the other QLD WH Terrestrial properties is almost complete and will include recommended changes including the potential for combining scientific and community committees

Cheryl Leavy–Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES)

Thanked the board for the opportunity from DES also addressed the Board and outlined the Department’s approach for engaging with First Nations people including:

- the establishment of the *Gurra Gurra* Framework (*gurra gurra* means all things) which will provide the pillars and principles required for DES to succeed. The approach must provide for more than just training, but instead develop true cultural capability across the department
- work being undertaken in relation to improved retention of, and increased opportunities for, First Nations staff
- the development of leadership capabilities including establishing monitoring and evaluation processes and ensuring senior executives takes responsibility for implementation
- examining procurement to facilitate greater purchasing and fee for service, and
- developing engagement and agreement making models which foster and support co-stewardship.

Resolution

The Board noted verbal updates on projects from the Queensland and Australian Government department representatives.

3.5. Significant correspondence

The correspondence report is provided at Attachment 3.5 (1).

Resolution

The Board noted the correspondence report.

3.6. SAC CCC Meeting outcomes

Directors were briefed on the outcomes of the joint SAC and CCC meeting was discussed by the Board and included discussion about the:

- 10-point plan. Committee members wanted to ensure that communicating the climate change message was paramount to the way forward and could include an information pack which committee members could use to share information across their organisations and communities. It may include points of contact, posters, and other materials, which could then be tailored by each member for their community of interest.
- Authority’s climate adaptation plan with a focus on fire management. The Board discussed inviting David Bowman to give a presentation.

- results of CCC and SAC end of term committee surveys, which requires some further analysis
- frequency of joint meetings with an agreement that once per year would suffice, and
- thanked the organisers of the combined CCC and SAC meeting and to the Chair for facilitating the discussion on the 10-point plan.

Resolution

The Board noted the outcomes of the joint SAC and CCC meeting held 2 May 2019.

Action

- The Authority to investigate the development of a climate adaptation communications package for SAC and CCC members.

4. STRATEGIC ISSUES

4.1. Workshop Session – Board Initiatives for 2019 -2022

The Chair opened the session by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held, and then led the strategic session which focused on priority Board initiatives for 2019-2022 and the SAC and CCC review.

The Board assessed the continued applicability of the 2015-2018 priorities into the future and it was proposed that:

- the board's priority list is to be aligned with the strategies under the 2020 – 2030 Strategic Plan
- several overarching issues should be addressed in a preamble to the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan and not considered as a separate priority, and the preamble should address the Wet Tropics Management Authority's role as a credible organisation which achieves its goals through partnerships with community.

The Board framed the discussion around previous Board priorities outlined in the Board Priority 2015-2018 document:

Climate Change – new priority to include 'and other threats, Discussion under priority 1 was in depth and the following new list of deliverables was proposed:

- i. Climate adaptation plan finalized and implemented (including \$20 million 10-point plan resourced and delivered)
- ii. A program of research to support delivery of the climate adaptation plan in collaboration with research institutions and agencies is established
- iii. A program is in place for monitoring the condition of World Heritage values including for the climate adaptation plan, 2020-2030 strategic plan, and broader WH reporting.

In addition to developing this list of deliverables the Board also discussed topics including clarity regarding monitoring developed to measure success indicators that are developed; where best to allocate the Boards time and resources, and interventions; linkages to other strategic documents such as the Queensland Government's Biodiversity Strategy; the lifespan and relationship of the 10-point plan with other WTMA strategic documents and processes.

Partnerships with Rainforest Aboriginal People - Proposed priority to:

- iv. Promote and incorporate the rights and interests and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal People in the management of the World Heritage area. Deliverable – securing the signatures on the implementation plan for the Regional Agreement.

Science – this priority could be incorporated into the preamble statement

Day to day management It was suggested that the reasons for including this as a priority in the previous Board Priority document are no longer relevant, and therefore this is not required as a board priority

Resourcing - the development of the new Board Priorities list/document are a work in progress and will require further discussion and development.

Actions

- WTMA staff to develop the preamble out of session
- Contact Dr Suzanne Long and Sheridan Morris regarding opportunities with National Environment Science Program
- I Gordon to organize an extra ordinary SAC meeting to discuss climate
- Sarah Titchen to forward details and link of the NESP review.

4.2 Briefing from Cairns and Far North Environment Centre

Representatives from CAFNEC - Denis Walls, Peter Valentine and Roz Walden were invited to brief the board. Points to note include:

- An overview of CAFNEC' role and the organisations campaigns in the 80s to get World Heritage listing
- consultation has already occurred between CAFNEC and WTMA, including some concerns that have been raised through the process – provided in an overview report.
- concerns around language and terminology used in the draft plan, and the perception natural values may be compromised to support inappropriate (i.e., not community supported) tourism. For example, 'nature-based infrastructure', and Strategy 4 – develop a dispersal strategy in line with the 'brand story'. Many of these misconceptions have been clarified through consultation with the WTMA planning staff, however the broader conservation sector remains suspicious of a broader government agenda to promote 'glamping' or unsustainable tourism models.

The Chair responded to the representations and made a commitment to continue working the CAFNEC to ensure that the proposed changes are clear, and the changes made ensure the integrity of the Wet Tropics. Responses to some of the issues raised included:

- WTMA is seeking to meet its obligations to present the World Heritage values through the appropriate locating of tourism infrastructure.
- The permitting system is still in place so WTMA will have controls over what will be allowed. If anything, the changes to criteria being made through the management plan amendment process represent a strengthening of the protections afforded.

Resolution

The Board thanked CAFNEC for their presentation.

Actions

- WTMA Planning team to follow up with CAFNEC regarding issues raised in their submission.
- The Chair to fully read CAFNEC submission and provide feedback to the planning team.

4.3 Update on Implementation of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement

A Haines provided an overview of the implementation of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement, as well as issues to be covered during the Forum on the 31st of May – June 2nd, 2019 including:

- A summary of the draft implementation agreement is to be presented at the Forum – this draft has been supplied to agencies
- Research endorsement and protocol is proposed to be discussed
- DG Special allocation funding for the Regional Agreement refresh expires June 2019.

The Board discussed the importance of having the refreshed Regional Agreement signed at a high level – preferably by the State Premier and Prime Minister so that the agreement covers all government agencies. Also discussed was the importance of the agreement being a partnership agreement, and not necessarily appearing to be led and supported solely by WTMA.

Resolution

The Board

- Noted the outcome of recent TOLG meetings to progress the refresh of the Regional Agreement, and
- Noted that a first draft of the Implementation Agreement (to refresh the 2005 Regional Agreement) is now available for negotiation with the Authority and other agencies.

4.4 Update on the Cassowary Awards

M Flynn updated the Board on the progress and planning for the Cassowary Awards, planned for the 15th of June 2019.

- Security arrangements including details of how reception will function to ensure only invited guests could attend.
- Over 200 RSVPs have been received.
- Sponsorship has gone well with a total of \$22K committed including \$6k in-kind support.
- All recipients were confirmed, sponsors and speakers.
- Minister Enoch will be arriving at 5.30pm. Minister Craig Crawford (also Member for Barron River) and Member for Cairns Michael Healy MP will be in attendance.
- Arrangements for VIPs including welcoming guests and seating arrangements in hand

The Board acknowledged the significant efforts of M'Lis Flynn in event planning and organising all aspects of the awards night.

Resolution

The Board noted the update on the Cassowary Awards.

4.5 Information update – Wet Tropics Plan Review

J Colman provided an update on the consultation process for the plan review to date including:

- The details of the more targeted phase 2 consultation held between March 2 to 18 April 2019
- 49 submissions were received during the process
- Most submitters were generally supportive however the conservation sector had some concerns regarding:
 - Zone changes and subsequent protection
 - Allowable infrastructure
 - The level of conservation with the conservation sector generally
- Rainforest Aboriginal People groups provided advice on Cooperative Management Agreements and aspirations on Aboriginal Land.
- The tourism sector was generally supporting with some concerns regarding roads on zoning maps and the dispersal of tourism products
- Community service infrastructure providers were also consulted to ensure zoning maps allow for necessary infrastructure and that information was shared to ensure a high accuracy of maps and infrastructure locations
- Local government were consulted but did not provide much feedback during this phase of consultation
- State Government agencies were largely supportive with the identification of a need for ongoing discussion of potential impacts and opportunities the Plan review provides.
- Changes to the draft plan are currently being considered due to information gained through the consultation process.

Resolution

- [The Board noted the update on the Wet Tropics Plan Review.](#)

4.6 Rezoning application – Bulgun Creek

A McLeod briefed the Board regarding the proposed rezoning to allow for community infrastructure at Bulgan creek. An overview and background of the application was provided and included :

- The proposal background – The Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) have applied for a rezoning of zone B to zone A to allow for an off-stream concrete and steel water tank at Bulgun Creek.
- Assessment of other locations and associated environmental concerns indicated that the proposed location is suitable
- The submission has been properly made and public notification has occurred
- Rezoning's are allowed under the plan and must follow the process and requirements under section

9/Schedule 1 of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

- The CCRC have also been liaising with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy regarding the requirement for referral under the EPBC Act.

The Board discussed the application and wanted further information to ensure that stakeholders generally, and the conservation sector specifically had been consulted adequately regarding the proposal.

Resolution

That the Board approved the preparation of an amended zoning map for Ministerial Council for their due consideration, subject to confirmation that sufficient community consultation has occurred.

Action

- WTMA to seek further information from CCRC regarding details of consultations held and provide this information to the Board OOS.

4.7 Regional Agreement update and summary of resolutions (15 June meeting)

R Lagerroth briefed directors on the process, outcomes, and resolutions from the Rainforest Aboriginal Forum. A main purpose of the forum was to progress the development of a draft implementation plan to support the 2005 Regional Agreement.

Some observations from Board members and WTMA staff that attended included:

- The size of the agenda was optimistic and coupled with the complexity of the issues and some problems with facilitation led to some sections being more rushed than was ideal.
- There were some issues regarding representation from other State departments that will require consideration
- The Chair observed that even with these issues, the overall impression was that the meeting was successful and provided good outcomes
- Future forums might benefit from a full day closed session
- The emphasis needs to be balanced so that meetings don't end up appearing to be government led.
- It is important to recognize that strict tight frames can't drive Traditional Owner processes, and that the Regional Agreement work is complex and difficult and will take time and resources to progress
- Briefings to different government departments and departmental staff attending should occur to ensure that all parties are aware of the background and objectives of meetings. The possibility of the Regional Management Coordination Network being involved in this task was discussed.

The chair completed the session by recognising the hard work that the TOLG has done and continue to do to maintain momentum behind the work.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Forum resolutions.

4.8 Tourism Destination Plan update (20 minutes)

Directors were provided with an update of the successful Australian Heritage Grant which includes work to produce a Tourism destination development plan. The grant will allow WTMA to work with key stakeholders, the tourism industry, and Rainforest Aboriginal People regarding which types of tourism development are appropriate for different areas of the Wet Tropics. The Alliance for Sustainable Tourism will also support the project through in-kind contributions. The grant will commence on signing and has an end date of June 2020. The Board discussed the idea of promoting a Wet Tropics 'gateway' or 'hub', and the unique opportunity provided to the Cairns area being between two World Heritage Areas – The Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics. The grant is expected to be partially executed through an external contracting arrangement.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the authority to engage a contractor to undertake part of the work.

4.9 2019-20 Annual Business Plan

S Buchanan led a working session on the 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan which included working through the Strategic Plan 2020-2030 strategies, milestones and actions and ensure that the actions and milestones planned for the 2019-2020 year were aligned with both the strategic plan and the Board priorities. The Board provided advice, and changes were made into a working Annual Business Plan document.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan, as amended.

4.10 Arts Nexus partnership

Scott Buchanan provided a brief update on the Arts Nexus project, outlining:

- An Arts Nexus strategy is in development that seeks in part, to promote niche tourism operators and to provide a strengthened voice for smaller tourism operators
- the Authority assists by providing a link to our network of community groups
- Arts Nexus assists the Authority by supporting the development of a seasonal / experience calendar
- Arts Nexus have lodged funding bids which have so far been unsuccessful, however if successful they seek to partner with the Authority to establish a regional network and events style calendar.

Resolution

The Board noted the update on the Arts Nexus project.

Actions

- The Authority to write to Arts Nexus to demonstrate our support to finalise the strategy and share with the Board.
- Include a link on the Authority's website to the Arts Nexus strategy, once completed.

4.11 SAC and CCC review of committees

A general discussion of the review of the two bodies was conducted including:

- There is value in a joint meeting noting that the CCC and SAC have different Terms of Reference
- The results of the committee surveys - responses from the SAC indicated that members saw the

committee as valuable, and it was making important contributions, however some members would like the value of the committees recognized more clearly, as well as their recommendations incorporated.

- SAC members stated some internal duplications regarding biophysical sciences, with more social sciences skills needed. How the committee is refreshed / required skills assessment could assist with addressing this issue.
- The CCC is a sounding board and a communication tool, with an obligation on members to maintain the flow of information to the member organisations, and to encourage the community to take actions themselves.
- The CCC would like resources put towards refreshing educational packages as the current package is outdated. This is a priority to ensure that these issues are addressed effectively by the community in the future. The current CCC has a number of ex-teachers which is a skill to draw on.
- There is a need stronger incorporation of Traditional Knowledge and issues into the committees – there is a need to liaise with the IAM to ensure this is further integrated, recognising the current strengthening representation.
- The issue of Directors of the WTMA Board chairing the committees – the understanding is that this is appreciated and maintains a strong relationship between the bodies.

Resolution

- The Board noted the updated on the statutory committee review

Action

- Write to the committees commending them on ongoing successful work with specific examples

5.0 General Business

5.1 Board Communique

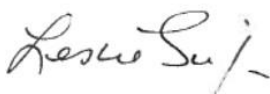
A draft communique was discussed and tabled for consideration.

Resolution

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

Meeting closed

The next Board meeting is proposed for the 26 July 2019



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Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM
Chair

Date 21/08/2019

Attachment 3.5 (1)

Incoming Correspondence

- 12 March 2019* from DES DG regarding Progress of the Gillies Range Road Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Project
- 22 March 2019* from DITID regarding update on Wangetti Trail.
- 30 March 2019* from Minister Price confirming \$9M for yellow crazy ant eradication program
- 09 April 2019* from Skyrail Rainforest Foundation regarding Research Funding for Traditional Rainforest Protection
- 26 April 2019* from Gavin Singleton regarding Australian Heritage Grants – Successful Projects / DawulWuru Aboriginal Corporation
- 14 May 2019* from DoEE regarding Matter concerning additional funding for WTMA Joanne Nathan – Acting Assistant Secretary, Heritage Branch
- 16 May 2019* from Hannah Jackson – Acting Chief of Staff response to letter sent 27 March 2019 regarding WH funding
- 24 May 2019* from David Edwards regarding Letter of invitation for Scott Buchanan to join the ANBTO PCGas an observer
- Nil date* from QLD Audit office Conserving threatened species Report 7:2018-19

Outgoing correspondence

- 14 January 2019* to Office of the Coordinator General – Mr. Broe regarding submission regarding draft EIS-Word Integrated ECO-Resort Project
- 27 March 2019* to DG DATSIP, Dr Chris Sarra, request for Senior Officer participation at Wet Tropics Traditional Owner Leadership Group meetings
- 27 March 2019* to Minister Enoch, Request for additional State funding for the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area
- 27 March 2019* to Hon Melissa Price regarding Commonwealth Allocation of funding to the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area
- 29 March 2019* to David Edwards, DITID regarding Wangetti Trail proposal
- 12 April 2019* Letter of Support for the Australian Quoll Conservancy

18 April 2019 to tenants regarding vegetation clearing on Lot 245 on CP867074, 190 Sides Road, Julatten

26 April 2019 Support for Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corp grant application to develop a Yirrganydji Indigenous Protected area

30 April 2019 to ACIUCN, Ms. Spencer Smith regarding impacts from Climate Change on the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area

03 May 2019 to Gudju regarding support for a combined Yidinji Indigenous Protected Area 14 May 2019 to A Jamieson and B W White regarding resolution from Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples regional forum – Oct 2018

23 May 2019 to Richard Berman-Hardman Letter of Support – Queensland Tourism Awards

29 May 2019 to Minister Susan Ley MP - Congratulations letter on new appointment as Minister 27 June 2019 to Tanya Prichard regarding Support letter for QTFN's application for Community Sustainability Action Grants, round 3 – Protecting Threatened Species