

***In attendance***
**Directors**

Ms Leslie Shirreffs *	Chair
Professor Iain Gordon *	Director
Ms Chrissy Grant *	Director
Dr Sally Driml *	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

**WTMA officers**

Ms Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Mr Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ms Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Ms Jeanette Wormald	Strategic Communications Advisor, World Heritage Connections
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Principal Advisor
Ms Ellen Weber	Senior Scientific Officer, Planning and Conservation
Ms Julie Colman	Principal Planning Officer, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Jodie Thomas *	Media and Communication Officer, World Heritage Connections
Mr Terry Carmichael *	Senior Project Officer, Planning and Conservation

**Observers**

Dr Sarah Titchen *	Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Mr Martin Dallen *	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Mr Shane Dagwell *	Heritage Officer, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Mr James Newman *	Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P, DES
Ms Lyn Wallace *	Manager, World Heritage, DES

**Guests**

Ms Tracy Steinhardt	Minute Taker
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*\*attendance via videoconference*

**1. INTRODUCTION**
**1.1. Chair's introduction and welcome**

The Chair acknowledged the Kambuwal people, where she was joining this virtual meeting from, and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Chair also acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land from where all participants in this meeting were located, including Traditional Custodians from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

**1.2. Apologies**

Mr Phil Rist	Director
Ms Angela Siggery	Director, Cultural Capability and Connections, DES

### **1.3. Conflict of Interest**

Iain Gordon - Nominated as the main representative to coordinate and lead research to support protected places across marine coastal landscapes, world heritage areas and Indigenous owned places for the RRRC Marine Coastal hub. This is a contract role. A decision will be announced shortly with research projects commencing at the beginning of May 2021.

## **2.0 Minutes and Actions Arising**

### **2.1 Endorsement of Board Minutes No 113**

#### **Resolution**

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for Board Meeting No 113.

### **2.2 Actions Arising**

The Executive Director worked through Actions Arising with updates provided to items.

#### **Resolution**

The Board **updated** the actions arising.

## **3.0 Reports**

### **3.1 Chair's Report**

The Chair addressed the board and mentioned the following:

- the Board's strategic planning workshop, the outcomes of their Strategic Plan review and the board's priorities for the 2021-2024.
- the appointment process for the Rainforest Aboriginal Women's Director's position is still in progress.
- Attending meetings to discuss several matters with the:
  - new Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon
  - Chief of Staff for the new Queensland Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport, the Hon Stirling Hinchliffe
  - Policy Advisor to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, The Hon Dr Steven Miles
- Attending the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) meeting and Chairing the AWHAC Working Group meeting on climate change.

The Chair thanked Prof Iain Gordon for appearing with the Executive Director before the Senate Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia Agenda, in response to WTMA's submission to the enquiry.

The Chair acknowledged the significant contribution that Stephen Oxley, First Assistant Secretary of Heritage, Reef and Marine Division, of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has made to World Heritage nationally and internationally, and the great support he has provided to the Authority over the past several years. Stephen retired on the 19 February 2021 and is a great loss to world heritage in Australia.

The Chair paid respect to friend and former Board director, Mr John Courtenay, who sadly passed away in December 2020. Much has been written about his numerous and significant achievements across an amazing career in tourism. He brought so much of that experience and enthusiasm to this board, and to the Wet Tropics community. The time shared with John will be fondly remembered, and he will be sadly missed. Vale John.

### **Resolution**

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

### **3.2 Executive Director's Report**

Scott Buchanan addressed the Board and provided an update on human resource management issues:

- The Queensland Government savings agenda post COVID-19 has impacted the Authority's abilities to fill staff vacancies.
- The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) have been working on a psychological safety program to support the mental health and mental wellbeing of staff.

Other relevant strategic matters of interest to the Board include:

- The QPWS&P Partnership Agreement has a number of projects that need to be signed off. Have boosted the governance model to improve collaboration between the two parties.
- The Authority is looking at facilitating more events like the Threatened Species symposium as it was well received by the community.
- Conversations with Terrain about a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define a partnership approach for supporting the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Strategic Custodial Think Tank (RAPSCTT).
- Expecting a brief of evidence for the Shipton Flats compliance issue by March.
- The Plan implementation workshops with local government have been well received. Issues relating to non-compliance with Douglas Shire Council permits have been positively resolved.

### **Resolution**

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

### **3.3 Director's Issues**

Directors provided the following updates:

#### **Sally Driml**

- Will be providing an update on the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) soon. A copy of the letter that the CCC sent to S Driml was shared with Board Directors on the 24 February 2021 at the Strategic Planning Workshop and included as a late addition to the incoming correspondence list.

#### **Iain Gordon**

- Provided the Authority's update on Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package to the Senate Enquiry.

- Attended the Threatened Species Symposium and was impressed with the enthusiasm from groups and in-kind contributions. Iain praised staff for the way they represented the Authority at the event.
- Nominated as main representative for RRRC Marine Coastal hub.

#### **Chrissy Grant**

- Engaged with the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) meeting.

### **3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Department reports**

#### ***Martin Dallen, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE***

Martin Dallen provided the following updates:

- Stephen Oxley retired on the 19 February 2021. His replacement has not yet been announced. Deb McAllister is currently acting in the role. James Barker is Assistant Secretary in the Heritage Branch.
- Increasing focus on protection of Indigenous Heritage.
- The World Heritage meeting in China is still planned to be held in June / July this year.
- Asia-Pacific region periodic reporting deadlines coming up – first milestone is to have 80% of section 2 complete by 31 March and 100% due by 30 June 2021. The DAWE team will need to verify section 1 between March and June. DAWE will submit all reports to UNESCO as a package at the end of July 2021.
- World Heritage Climate Change policy is progressing. Australia provided feedback on the recent draft. Opportunity for the public to provide feedback will be provided mid-2021. There will be a more comprehensive review prior to 2025.
- National Cabinet is streamlining approval processes and national environmental standards.
- 2021 Australian Heritage Grants decision expected late March-early April.
- DAWE is in the process of commenting on the latest version of the Vulnerability Assessment Report submitted by CSIRO that WTMA has contributed to.

The Executive Director advised the Board that the Authority provided two letters of support for Australian Heritage Grants in 2021:

- a Department of Environment and Science (DES) application for Indigenous fire management.
- a Rainforest Reserves application for land rehabilitation where roads have been closed.

#### ***James Newman, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P, DES***

James Newman acknowledged John Courtney and his tireless efforts in advancing appropriate nature-based tourism in protected areas and noted John's encouragement and support of Scott and Leslie leadership in driving and supporting the Authority. John's view highlighted the importance of tourism involvement in the work of the Authority.

James Newman informed Directors that:

- Tropical cyclones have kept QPWS&P busy. Fortunately, there has been no damage from recent weather.
- A new QPWS&P office has opened in Innisfail, housing wildlife and operational crew.

- Funding focused on the effect of feral pigs in the transmission of Panama disease winds up at the end of the 2020-21 financial year. Additional funding is needed to address the feral pig threat to the Wet Tropics region.
- QPWS&P has addressed some recent crocodile threats in the region. The Premier has asked the Minister to review the current Crocodile Monitoring Plan so QPWS&P will have scientific data available on that soon.
- Involved in the Authority's Reef Assist Program. Renewed QPWS&P MOU with Girringun Aboriginal Corporation Rangers. The Minister has announced funding for the first 50 of 200 Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger positions.
- Halifax Bay Wetlands approved to expand by 3,000ha. Includes removal of over 14 fishing huts. Achieved in partnership with the Department of Resources.
- Issues identified in the WTMA and QPWS&P Partnership Agreement close to finalising.
- Andrew Buckley will be attending the next Board meeting.

### ***Lyn Wallace, World Heritage, DES***

Lyn Wallace also acknowledged John Courtney and updated Directors on the following matters:

- The Department of Environment and Science (DES) are considering themes and consulting internally to draft the World Heritage Strategy – aiming to:
  - make World Heritage more meaningful to the community
  - include a more meaningful decision-making role for First Nations people
- Periodic report is keeping the team busy
- Property updates were provided:
  - K'gari (Fraser Island) – fires have been a big issue. There is concern that the island may not cope as well if there is another fire. Executive Officer, Alanna, has moved on to the Reef Team so an expression of interest will be advertised to fill the role. It is a priority to get the Advisory Committees in place, hopefully by the second quarter of 2021. Awaiting a decision from Minister.
  - Gondwana – consulting with the people to get a more appropriate Advisory Committee structure in place. Speaking to two of the native title groups to get a Queensland Advisory Committee in place.
  - Riversleigh – things have been progressing ok.
  - Quandamooka (North Stradbroke Island) – have engaged Terry Bailey.

### **3.5 Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) report to the Board**

Iain Gordon noted that the SAC has not met since November 2020. The SAC's next meeting is scheduled for the 11 March 2021.

- SAC members reviewed the suggested themes for 2020-21 State of Wet Tropics Report and provided feedback.
- Iain Gordon spoke about the Spectacled flying fox issue with Cairns Regional Council looking at relocation. Going to ask the SAC about the consequences of this action on the ecology and population viability of the Spectacled flying fox within the World Heritage Area.

### **Resolution**

The Board **noted** the Scientific Advisory Committee Chair's briefing.

### 3.6 Community Consultative Committee (CCC) report to the Board

Sally Driml advised the board that she hasn't had the opportunity to meet with the CCC yet. The Authority is stretched on resources and it was not possible to organise a meeting in February 2021. former CCC Chair, Anne Clarke, facilitated a session with the new CCC to identify their top 10 priority issues aligned with the Authority's Strategic Plan at their last meeting. The Board considered the CCC's priorities in the Board's priorities yesterday (24 February 2021).

- CCC members held their own meeting and prepared a paper for the board.
- The next CCC meeting will be scheduled in March 2021.

Iain Gordon identified that the CCC would like the Authority to coordinate some activities in relation to threatened species.

### Resolution

The Board **noted** the Community Consultative Committee Chair's briefing.

### Action:

- Sally Driml to work with the CCC on a plan to provide further advice to the Board on their list of issues.

### 3.7 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the Significant Correspondence tabled in the Collated documents supplied for the meeting.

Date	From/To	Description	Action for directors
24 November 2020	Incoming from Michael Healy Member for Cairns and Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development	Response to WTMA correspondence – acknowledging the Chair's congratulations and appreciation for the work WTMA does managing the Wet Tropics.	None required.
18 December 2020	Incoming from the Hon Mark Furner MP Minister for Agriculture Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural communities	Referred WTMA correspondence to the Hon Scott Stewart – DAF will continue to support ongoing management of invasive ants.	Further contact details provided for follow up.
5 January 2021	Incoming from the Hon Scott Stewart MP Minister for Resources	Response to WTMA correspondence dated 11 November 2020 – correspondence has	None required.

		been referred to DES, DAF and the DTIS for consideration and response.	
13 January 2021	Incoming from Kate Adams Chief of Staff for the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport	Referred WTMA correspondence to the Hon Scott Stewart and meeting with the Chair on 13 January 2021 to discuss the Sustainable Tourism Plan.	Further contact details provided for follow up.
13 January 2021	Outgoing to Ms Shirley Hollingsworth, CEO Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park	Extend commiseration for the closure of Tjapukai	None required.
20 January 2021	N/A	Handout form the Memorial Service for John Courtney – former WTMA director	None required.
22 February 2021	Incoming from CCC via S Driml	CCC letter and paper for the WTMA Board	Board discuss and propose solutions to the CCC's list of concerns

## Resolution

The Board **noted** the Significant Correspondence report.

## 4.0 Strategic Issues

On Day 1 of the Board Meeting on 24 February 2021, Directors held a Strategic Planning Workshop with WTMA Managers. Directors reviewed achievements since the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030 came into effect, discussed board and resourcing priorities, strategic risk and communications. The Board's 2021-2024 Priorities will be used to inform business planning and be published once finalised by the board.

The Board reviewed and endorsed the WTMA Board Risk Appetite Statement with the following change:

- Under the Environment Strategic Objective, last dot point – change “net environmental benefits” to “demonstrable environmental benefits”.

The Board agreed to review and endorse the Strategic Risk Register out of session.

## Actions

- Executive Director to refine board priorities in consultation with the Chair, to focus on what is achievable in the next three years.
- Executive Director and Chair to meet with Director P Rist to discuss board priorities and incorporate his input
- Final board priorities to be sent to Directors for approval prior to distribution.
- Strategic Risk Register to be forwarded to Directors for review and endorsement out of session.

### 4.1 Mid-year review of the 2020-21 Annual Business Plan and budget

The Executive Director briefed the Board on the progress on the Annual Business Plan and budget noting the following:

- Annual Business Plan – 80% of deliverables on track.
- Budget - largely on track.

Directors discussed risks and various ideas on potential funding sources to further assist with achieving the board's priorities.

## Resolutions

The Board **noted** the six-monthly review of delivery against the 2020-21 Annual Business Plan and 6 monthly tracking of the budget. The Board **endorsed** the proposed actions to ensure that the budget is utilised to full capacity and in accordance with service delivery obligations.

### 4.2 Outcome of the WTMA policy review

Rebecca Lagerroth briefed the Board on the outcome of WTMA policy review. the Authority's current policies and documents are compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* and some will need to be reviewed and updated.

The review highlighted the following actions are required to contemporise the Authority's policy:

Document type	Title	Status	Actions
Policy	Protection through Partnerships	Superseded by the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030	Archive as legacy document. No longer a current WTMA policy
Strategy	Wet Tropics Nature Based Tourism Strategy	Superseded by the Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021	Archive as legacy document. No longer a current WTMA strategy
Strategy	Wet Tropics Walking Strategy	Superseded by the Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021	Archive as legacy document. No longer a current WTMA strategy
Strategy	Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy	Superseded in sections by other pest and weed information and by the Wet Tropics connectivity strategy (Terrain NRM document)	Archive as legacy document. No longer a current WTMA strategy
Operational Guideline	Determining Land Acquisition and Cooperative Management Agreement Priorities	Superseded by more current Cooperative Management Agreement guidelines	Delete operational guideline.
Operational Guideline	Daintree Cooperative Managements and Assessment Criteria	Superseded by more current Cooperative Management Agreement guidelines	Delete operational guideline.



Document type	Title	Status	Actions
Operational Guideline	Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Meeting Procedures	Superseded by Wet Tropics Management Authority Boardbook 2020	Delete operational guideline.
Operational Guideline	Conservation Sector Liaison Group	Conservation Sector Liaison Group no longer operates	Delete operational guideline. Archive as legacy document
Operational Guideline	Tourism Industry Liaison Group	Tourism Industry Liaison Group no longer operates	Delete operational guideline. Archive as legacy document
Operational Guideline	Landholder and Neighbours Liaison Group	Landholder and Neighbours Liaison Group no longer operates	Delete operational guideline. Archive as a legacy document
Operational Guideline	Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee no longer operates	Delete operational guideline. Archive as a legacy document
Operational Guideline	Public access to Wet Tropics Management Authority Information	Superseded by the Right to Information Act 2009 and DES Right to information services	Delete operational guideline
Operational Guideline	Grants and Subsidies	Superseded by DES Procurement Framework, policy and process	Delete operational guideline
Operational Guideline	Time and attendance management	Superseded by DES Hours of Work and Flexible Work Arrangements	Delete operational guideline.
Operational Guideline	Publications and media responses by Wet Tropics Management Authority staff	Superseded by the 2020 Media Policy and Procedure	Delete operational guideline
Operational Guideline	Welcome to Country	Superseded by the DES Payments to First Nations people Working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (Co-stewardship Payments) Procedural Guide	Delete operational guideline. Archive as a legacy document
Procedure	Wet Tropics Ministerial Council Meeting Procedures	Ministerial Council replaced by Ministerial Forum. Conran Review will result in further changes.	Delete procedure. Archive as a legacy document

Iain Gordon requested that the board be advised if any additional policies are identified.

## Resolutions

The Board **noted** that the Authority's current policies and documents are compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (listed in Attachment 4.2 (1) of the collated papers for this meeting) and that some need to be reviewed and updated. The Board **approved** archiving 1 policy and 3 strategies that are no longer current; and deleting 12 outdated operational guidelines and 1 procedure that are no longer required or have been superseded by more contemporary guidelines (as listed above).

## 4.3 State of Wet Tropics Report themes

Rebecca Lagerroth and Ellen Weber briefed the Board on the State of the Wet Tropics Report. Whilst primarily a statutory requirement under our legislation, the State of Wet Tropics reports are useful communication products that inform our community, influence management decisions and drive evidence-based policy.

The Authority's SAC and CCC were invited to provide input into potential themes and their feedback enhances existing focal points through commentary on the bigger picture and greater community involvement.

The Board was particularly interested in the ecological restoration theme for the following reasons:

- Rehabilitation is a core tenet of the World Heritage Primary Goal. Since 1990 there have been a complex array of government, NGO and more recently, philanthropic sponsored schemes to encourage and assist restoration efforts across the Wet Tropics landscapes.
- Current research efforts are underway to identify effective longer-term and broader-scale revegetation techniques that support the carbon economy, deliver biodiversity outcomes and build landscape resilience.
- Opportunity to highlight community involvement in restoration efforts, carbon markets and co-benefits across Wet Tropics landscapes.
- The Authority is looking at hosting a Restoration Symposium in May/June that sheds light on different methodologies and innovative sciences that would provide excellent information that could be incorporated into the State of Wet Tropics Report.

### Resolution

The Board **noted** the suggested potential themes for the State of Wet Tropics Report for 2020-2021 and **approved** the ecological restoration theme for the report.

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

Julie Colman briefed the Board on the draft amendments to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*. Julie pointed out that there are changes that will have to be made to operationalise and reflect the Conran Review recommendations (consequential amendments), as well as changes that are required as a result of the Wet Tropics Management Plan amendment and other changes required to contemporise the Act and improve its applicability.

WTMA will continue to work with OQPC and other Government agencies to determine the most appropriate avenues to make the amendments.

### Resolution

The Board **noted** the mandatory changes required to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (the Act) as a result of the Conran Review. The Board **approved** that the draft amendments tabled in Board Agenda papers to be referred to Office of Queensland Parliamentary Council for guidance and advice. The Board **did not approve** the following suggested amendments:

- Section 14 (1) (a) – proposed Deputy Chair role is not required as existing provision is sufficient
- Section 63 (1) – The Board does not agree with omitting Section 63 (1) (c), that is the requirement for an annual State of the Wet Tropics Report. The Board advised the team to seek advice from OQPC to ascertain what drafting would be required for different options that is no less than every 5 years. DAWE was asked to check if an annual requirement is necessary.

The Board **endorsed** the Authority to work with other Government agencies to negotiate and determine the most appropriate avenue to progress Act amendments. The Board instructed the team to ensure all updates are reported to the Board.

### 4.5 Update on Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package, including Reef Assist

Ellen Weber briefed the Board on the Reef Assist program. Contracts are now in place with four organisations. The Authority is working well as facilitators and enablers and is receiving excellent feedback.

The Authority is looking at flipping the Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package into an investment prospectus to generate further funding opportunities from other streams. Opportunity to engage more deeply with Cairns Regional Council. Applying for funding through the RDA Building Better Regions fund to scope out work for the Green Economy. The Board supported WTMA's participation in a Steering Committee for this program.

The Working for Nature proposal has 10 priority regions identified and the Great Barrier Reef catchment area is included. The Board agreed it was worthwhile to be involved in this opportunity.

### **Resolution**

The Board **noted** the update on the status of the Tropical North Queensland Green and Blue Economic Stimulus package and **endorsed** the continuation of the Authority's involvement in the Working for Nature concept and other opportunities to engage with the philanthropic and for-profit conservation sector.

### **4.6 Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Update**

Lucy Karger briefed the Board with an update on the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program:

- The program is on track with budget, commitments, and ongoing staff recruitment.
- The NAMAC Taskforce will be in May 2021. It will involve the SES and, potentially, the Army. The priority is to find any unknown infestations this year.
- Mulgrave Central Mill are working in cooperation with the Authority to provide data on cane harvesting activities. This has helped understand the spread of the ant population.
- Funding runs out in June 2022. By the end of this year, the program is aiming to reconnect with stakeholders and inform local members in order to re-establish our reference group so they can write third party endorsements to support our future application.
- Working with Townsville City Council to mitigate the spread of Yellow Crazy Ants from their area. They aren't funded for mitigation at this stage. A Risk Mitigation Assessment has been prepared.

### **Resolution**

The Board **noted** the update on the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

### **4.7 Regional Agreement and RAPSCCT Update**

Buddy Ahmat briefed the Board on the Regional Agreement and provided a Rainforest Aboriginal People's Strategic Custodial Think Tank (RAPSCCT) update:

- The successful implementation of the Supplementary Agreement requires:
  - immediate and meaningful engagement with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples
  - identification of signatories to represent RAP and a legal entity / auspice body
  - consultation and negotiation with key departmental officers to meet policy and legal requirements
  - continued discussions with office holders to securing funding
  - endorsement at the 2021 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Forum (proposed for June).
- A RAPSCCT meeting on 12 February should confirm the timeframes for the delivery of the Supplementary Agreement.

- The 2021 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Forum is currently proposed for either the 11-13 or 25-27 June, subject to venue availability. RAPSCCTT will have a planning day in March – this may be a closed session.
- A new MOU with Terrain NRM is being negotiated, to provide ongoing support to the RAPSCCTT until 30 June 2021. Waiting for Terrain NRM to provide feedback to finalise.
- Seeking feedback from RAP before scheduling the next RAPSCCTT meeting.

The Chair noted that the Authority is very committed to the refresh of the Regional Agreement and keeping that going until the Regional Forum this May is very important. Whilst the Authority is running out of funding to support RAPSCCTT, we will continue to advocate for the Supplementary Agreement to be fully funded as the relationship with the RAPSCCTT and Rainforest Aboriginal People is very important.

### Resolution

The Board **noted** the key developments with the refresh of the Wet Tropics of Queensland Regional Agreement (Regional Agreement) since board meeting 113 on 25 - 26 November 2020 and **noted** the issues and risks to finalising the Supplementary Agreement.

### 4.8 The 18<sup>th</sup> Cassowary Awards

Jeanette Wormald briefed the Board with an update on the Cassowary Awards and venue options. Various COVID compliant venues were considered. Through discussion the Board:

- Selected the Tanks as the preferred venue and would like to invite Cairns Regional Council to be a major sponsor of the awards. It was noted that the event will also be live-streamed.
- Identified the 19 June 2021 as the date for the Awards and requested that early invitations be sent to Commonwealth and State Environment Ministers to check their availability.
- Requested that an acknowledgement of John Courtney's contributions to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Authority be made at the Awards ceremony. Directors felt there was a conflict of interest in naming a Cassowary Award after a recent Director and had recently decided to dedicate the Sustainable Tourism Plan to John.
- Agreed that due to COVID requirements to guarantee bookings for an event, a small booking fee of \$7.50 will be charged to individuals registering to attend, which can be redeemed as a 'welcome drink' voucher at the awards.

The Chair asked Directors to let her know if they had any suggestions for 'The Chairs Award' candidate.

### Resolution

The Board **endorsed** The Tanks venue and contingency plan for the 18th Cassowary Awards to be held on 19 June 2021. The Board **endorsed** that an acknowledgement will be made at the Awards ceremony to recognise the contributions of former Board Director John Courtney. The Board **did not endorse** naming the Tourism and Presentation Award after former Board Director John Courtenay.

### Actions

- Invite Cairns Regional Council to be a major sponsor of the Cassowary Awards.
- Send an invitation to the Commonwealth and State Environment Ministers for the 18<sup>th</sup> Cassowary Awards.

#### 4.9 Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan Update

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez briefed the Board with an update on the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan:

- Final edits are underway.
- A soft launch of the report is proposed by sending a final copy to all people who participated in its development.
- This will be followed by a formal launch with the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment in June 2021 which may coincide with the 18th Cassowary Awards ceremony.
- Aiming to appoint a Senior Project Officer by April to focus on successful delivery of the plan.

#### Resolution

Board **noted** progress on the delivery of the final Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2020 – 2030. The Board **endorsed** the proposed launch event.

#### 5.0 General Business

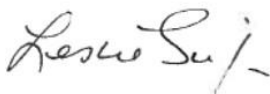
##### 5.1 Board Communique #114

#### Resolution

The Board **approved** the Communique for Meeting 114.

##### 5.2 Other business

Board meeting 114 closed at 4:45 pm.



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Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM  
Chair

Date 22/03/2021