

In Attendance**Board directors**

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

WTMA Officers

Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Principal Advisor
Mr Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ms Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Ms Ellen Weber	Senior Scientific Officer, Planning and Conservation
Ms Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program

Observers

Mr Shane Dagwell	Heritage Officer, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Mr Martin Dallen	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Mr James Newman	Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P
Angela Siggery	Director - Cultural Capability and Connections

Minute Taker

Ms Christine Howes

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

The Chair, Ms Leslie Shirreffs, acknowledged all Traditional Custodians from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Traditional Owners of the land where everyone sits today.

1.2. Apologies

Mr Phillip Rist	Director
Ms Cheryl Leavy	Executive Director, Partnerships, DES
Mr Crag Carttling	Principal Project Officer, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program, DES

1.3. Conflicts of Interest

Sally Driml, advised she has been appointed by the Chief Scientist in Queensland to provide advice to the Government on the results of Queensland Estuarine Crocodile Monitoring Program 2016–2019.

Iain Gordon noted his involvement in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP).

2. Previous Minutes and Actions Arising**2.1 Endorsement of Board Minutes No 115****Resolution**

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for Board Meeting No 115.

Out of Session Papers were approved at Board meeting #115.

Action: The Board requested that 'recuperating' be changed to 'recouping' in the Out of Session Paper 440 Resolution.

2.2 Actions Arising

No	Agenda item	Comments
1	4.8	Look at opportunities and linkages in National Action Plan for Feral Pigs.
2	4.8	Submission to the Threatened Species Commissioner – thanks to the board for feedback on the Wet Tropics bio-region as a priority.
5	4.2	The Land Restoration Fund has just been announced, need to identify projects that the Authority can apply for.
6	4.3	Yellow Crazy ants – Canberra trip postponed due to Covid-19, likely to be virtual meetings with federal members. The funding ask document discussed at Board Meeting #115 is currently being polished – the Hon. Warren Entsch has advised he is happy to take it forward.
7	4.5	Complete - Consider how the Dhawura-Ngilian vision can be reflected in refreshed Regional Agreement– no need for this action to continue to be an item.
8	4.9	Delays in progressing teacher ambassadorship due to staff constraints.
9	4.10	Delays in finalising the Strategic Communications Strategy due to staff constraints. Staff will provide an opportunity for the CCC to have input into the Strategy, e.g. via a workshop.

The Chair thanked all team members for the number of completed items in the actions arising table.

Resolution

The Board **updated** the actions arising.

2. Reports

3.1 Chair's Report

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

- Attended the Cassowary Awards – the board's night of nights - and shared heartfelt thanks and appreciation to sponsors, supporters, winners, and particularly to staff.
- Attended the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Forum – a significant effort by the Authority, Terrain, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) and the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Think Tank (RAPPT).
- Continued to support the highly successful Yellow Crazy Ant Crazy Eradication Program. With Executive Director, Scott Buchanan, met with Cairns MPs and others at all levels of government to seek continued government commitment for funding.

- With Scott, met with CAFNEC, and separately with Liz Owen and Dennis AhKee from Jaragun to talk about climate responses and restoration initiatives.
- Participated in the recent Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting and discussed the top strategic directions for the Authority and the CCC's strong role in advising the Board. Encouraged to hear the CCC are planning a joint meeting with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) later this year to specifically discuss climate change.
- Worked on a business case with Scott and the board with a view to working with the departments on the resourcing of the Authority going forward. This is a key focus for the board in meeting its fiduciary duties for the organisation and its charter.
- Worked on the board appointments process for the upcoming vacancies.
- The joint-meeting with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) board has been a casualty of COVID, so will look for another opportunity.

The Chair reflected on her term as Chair and the many achievements made with the Board and the Authority. In particular: funding for yellow crazy ants; the revised Management Plan and Strategic Plan; a genuinely pursued rights based approach to working with Rainforest Aboriginal People's; the Accept, Act Adapt Climate Adaptation Plan; four Rainforest Aboriginal People's forums; Rainforest Aboriginal People's News; the researcher protocol; the reinvigorated Cassowary Awards; the reconstituted CCC and SAC; the Sustainable Tourism Plan; and meaningful, productive relationships with the community, tourism industry, government agencies. The Chair was also very proud of the Board working so well together and the Authority's amazing staff. She thanked everyone for the privilege.

Resolution

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

3.2 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Scott Buchanan, informed the board of the following staff movements:

New staff include:

- Kalinda Palmer is the new Project Officer, Aboriginal Partnerships, in World Heritage Connections team;
- Israel Hajbi is the new dog handler, Yellow Crazy Ants team;
- Sarah Jordan is the new Senior Tourism Officer, in World Heritage Connections team.

Staff who have left the Authority or are leaving soon include:

- Jeff Jackson, from the Yellow Crazy Ant team has accepted a position at Abiculture;
- LJ (Lirian), from the yellow Crazy Ant team is taking six months of unpaid leave;
- Desiree Gowell, from the yellow Crazy Ant team started with us as an intern, has done great GIS work in and out of the Authority and will be leaving soon;
- Kalinda Palmer from the World Heritage Connections team due to start maternity leave in a couple of months;
- Bill Carrodus from the Planning and Conservation team retires this Friday. He has been with the Authority since it formed. Bill always does a great job, he has developed excellent networks and many people have a lot of regard for him. Tim has done some fantastic work to make sure Bill's knowledge is passed on within the team.

The Chair passed on the thanks of the board to all departing staff.

Scott continued with the following key program activities since the last board meeting including:

- A lot of work to organise the recent Rainforest Aboriginal People's regional forum – it was a great success. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is excited about The RAPTT's approach and how they can support it.
- The Authority's Accept Act Adapt Climate Action Grants close on the 15 August 2021.
- Second quarter reporting is nearly complete for the Reef Assist project. A videographer is helping to show how Reef Assist has been powerful in getting jobs and on-ground outcomes.
- The Cassowary Recovery Team met to discuss their TARGA rally concerns. Targa rally CEO, Mark Perry, attended and discussed wildlife safety; there would be less road traffic, more quiet places and all vehicles would stop travelling through any sighting area. Mark said having high tech systems in place meant that cassowaries would be safer overall.
- A recent ABC story about the Authority permitting the conditioned use of glyphosate was handled well by staff.
- The Authority is seeking more time to consider submission concerns related to a wind farm proposal e.g. birds, aesthetics, wildlife corridor and cultural heritage values.
- The Authority has recently participated in a number of successful events, including EcoFiesta & NAIDOC week. Our stands were well-visited and there was good interest in the information provided.

Resolution

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

3.3 Directors' Issues

Iain Gordon:

- Disappointed with revised international climate change policy. It is weak on potential changes that might occur in outstanding universal value. Australia is seen as 'at risk' by the World Heritage community. There needs to be more discussion from government.

Chrissy Grant:

- Attended a lot of RAPTT meetings in the lead up to the Rainforest Aboriginal People's regional forum. Good outcome in regard to the in-principle support for RAPTT to continue negotiations for the Supplementary Agreement. There was some confusion with the Supplementary Agreement language, and this was clarified. The facilitator, Alan Dale, did a wonderful job.
- Participated in late night on-line meetings with the World Heritage committee last week.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process is ongoing. An open-ended working group will be producing a Diversity Framework. They are looking at having a Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP15) in October 2021.
- An International Indigenous Peoples' forum is on this week.

Sally Driml:

- Nil to report at this meeting.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Department reports

Martin Dallen, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE

Martin Dallen acknowledged Country and Traditional Owners. He also acknowledged Leslie's Chairing efforts as outstanding. Martin provided the following key updates to the Board:

- Simon Banks has been officially appointed as the First Assistant Secretary.
- James Barker attended Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Forum. Productive outcome in terms of helping to improve his understanding of the RAPTT, Regional Agreement and Supplementary Agreement.
- The DAWE Indigenous Heritage Protection Committee were encouraged to reach out to Chrissy after the last Board meeting. This is still on their agenda as they continue to build their stakeholder base.
- The Minister and department participated in the World Heritage Committee meetings. Notable outcomes include the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is now on the endangered list; Fraser Island World Heritage Area is now officially called K'Gari (Fraser Island) World Heritage Area; and State of Conservation reports will now need to be prepared for Tasmanian Wilderness, Uluru and Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Areas.
- Thanked all involved in the Periodic Reporting process for the Wet Tropics.
- Offered to assist the Authority with conveying virtual meetings with departments in Canberra now that the trip to Canberra has been cancelled due to Covid-19. The methodologies and technology used by the program may be applied elsewhere.
- Will have further discussions with Scott about legislative changes following Conrad review.

Action: DAWE to share a copy of the World Heritage Committee decision documents for the name change of K'Gari (Fraser Island)

Angela Siggery, Executive Director, Cultural Capability and Connections, DES

Angela Siggery acknowledged the Traditional Owners. Angela echoed thanks to Leslie for her work as Chair, leadership in progressing the rights and interests of Rainforest Aboriginal People to improve conservation of World Heritage, and for good humour, kindness and generosity. Angela provided the following updates:

- The work of the DES Agreement and policy-making team is on track to be delivered in the last quarter of this year. They are also progressing First Nations Engagement Framework.
- The Director General released a co-stewardship directional statement
- Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program are waiting for approval of 50 new rangers. An announcement is imminent. 2021 Caring for Country Grants are also about to open.
- The renaming of K'Gari (Fraser Island) World Heritage Area is a highlight. Working towards an on-country celebration.
- World Heritage strategy near completion. Formal internal policy and governance approach in development.
- Re-engaging Cape York Traditional Owners for a World Heritage listing. Internal funding received for a position. This is a priority for the Premier and Minister.
- First year reporting for the Gurra Gurra framework has commenced. Delivering impactful outcomes.

- Australian Heritage grants will open around September. Commencing a process to prioritise applications.

Action: Angela Siggery to share Co-Stewardship Directions Statement with the board, if possible.

The Chair extended a congratulations for the Fraser Island renaming.

James Newman, Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, DES

James Newman acknowledged the Traditional Owners. He also acknowledged the Chair's work and how effectively the Authority and QPWS&P are operating now. He thanked Leslie for the mentoring over the past 15 years. James provided the following update:

- Continuing to train rangers. Working increasingly closely with the Authority regarding the use of compliance package training. Focus on pig hunting in Tully, firearms use and rave parties within the World Heritage Area.
- Continuing to progress Daintree/Eastern Kuku Yalanji lands transfer. Working on increasing powers especially for Land and Sea Rangers.
- Park management planning – there has been a high number of visitors this season. Some sites have had a 300% capacity increase. Rangers have kept up but it has come with a high workload. QPWS&P has implemented QR codes in places where there is internet connectivity. Manual sign-in not practical so have been exempted.
- Indigenous engagement – reported on MOU with WTMA and Dulabed Malanbarra People; signed MOU with Wanyurr Majay; MOU in Innisfail about to be signed; further MOUs in train; working with Jabalbina on tourism hub and redevelopment.
- Staff updates:
 - Carol Kinnaird is now the Principal Ranger of the coastal tropics– the first female team leader in this position; Ross Domin who was acting in this position returns to the Senior Ranger position in Ingham.
 - Dave Fuller is now the Cape York Joint Management Manager;
 - Alison Webb has a new job in Parks Services;
 - Andrew Millerd is continuing in the Acting Regional Director position.
- The Queensland Audit Office has put forward a broad terms of reference for a 2023 audit on the management of World Heritage sites (includes the tourism industry) and invasive species (will include yellow crazy ants).
- Nominations for awards – Premier's award re engagement QPWS and TOs in dry tropics.

The board congratulated Carol Kinnaird on her appointment to the Principal Ranger position and thanked Ross Domin for the support he has provided in this role over the last 18 months. Scott advised the board that the Authority will also be involved in the World Heritage audit. The board requested that QPWS&P consider how the World Heritage Area is being managed for climate change when responding the audit. Tim Wong, Manager Planning and Conservation, informed James that the Authority will be seeking views from QPWS&P staff soon on how to improve the Authority's Act as a part of the review process.

3.5 Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) report to the Board from Professor Iain Gordon

Iain Gordon expressed thanks to Leslie for a sterling job as Chair. He commended her for being very engaged with board and decisions on behalf of SAC committee.

Iain advised the Board that the SAC:

- Has not met since their last meeting.
- Their next meeting is planned for October 2021. It will be a joint meeting with the CCC. Iain and Sally are working together to focus the meeting, recognising limited resources and that the Authority has the climate adaptation plan, board priorities and a business plan already. They are hoping the CSIRO Resilience Framework will be available to inform the discussions. They will also need to consider attracting resources.
- Planning to have Restoration Symposium on 13-14 September 2021. The SAC and CCC are supporting Ellen Weber to develop the agenda. There will be a series of visits to sites on the first day. The symposium will be held on the second day. Planning is going well.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Scientific Advisory Committee report.

3.6 Community Consultative Committee (CCC) report to the Board from Sally Driml

Sally Driml read the CCC report to the Board. Key points included:

- The CCC met virtually last week and Leslie participated in the meeting. Leslie gave comfort that the board respects CCC advice. Sally thanked and acknowledged Leslie's contribution and identified a potential opportunity for a joint get together between the board and CCC.
- Sally shared information with the board about ethical funds for directors to read.
- Key issues from the CCC report that were discussed by the Board:
 - Question about herbicide policy – whilst this is a local council matter, the Authority issues permits for local Government to carry out maintenance work on essential community infrastructure, this includes conditioning herbicide use, inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The conditioning is consistent with national guidelines.
 - Interest in feral pigs and quarantine discussions, including the effect of pigs on carbon in soils – Ricky Archer (NAILSMA CEO) is the national Chair for the National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Implementation Committee.
 - Concern about the spread of Amazonian frogbit.
 - Paluma walking trails - Jamie Oliver (CCC Member) advised DTIS had announced \$600,000 to upgrade Paluma walking trails, although there had not been any consultation with the community for a major walking track – the Authority will write to DTIS.
 - Helicopter fly zones – CCC members advised the board that the Mission Beach community is requesting an alternative flight path (other than in extreme emergency) so that helicopters don't fly over the World Heritage Area.
 - New advice about climate action in response to GBR issues, members keen to advise board that from the community perspective, addressing emissions reduction is essential.
 - Local opportunities for emissions reduction should be pursued. Concerned that emissions reduction is number 10 on the Board's 10-point plan. The Authority is

keen to better quantify the existing carbon storage volume of the World Heritage Area, this information could, potentially inform modelling to highlight what extra emissions would occur if there is an increase in fire.

- The CCC and SAC will be having a joint workshop on the 27 October 2021.

A two way communication process between the board and CCC is certainly required and it is important the Board's feedback is communicated to the CCC openly. Joint get together between board and CCC considered a good idea. The Chair requested all Directors consider what might be referred to SAC and CCC for advice.

Action: The Authority to write to DTIS requesting involvement in the walking trails project at Paluma walking tracks project after hearing community concerns through the CCC.

Action: Look at opportunities for a joint Board and CCC get together/workshop e.g. next face-to-face board meeting.

Action: Tim Wong to look into the helicopter issue raised by the CCC further to ensure that the Authority's issues are being met.

3.6 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the Significant Correspondence.

Correspondence In:

24/05/2021	Copy of John S Richardson Director Kenfrost (1987) Pty Ltd letter to Federal Minister The Hon. Sussan Ley Minister for the Environment Parliament House, House of Representatives and State Minister The Hon Meaghan Scanlon Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef – Support to continue Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Funding
27/05/2021	Copy of Mark Olsen CEO Tourism Tropical North Queensland letter to Federal Minister The Hon. Sussan Ley Minister for the Environment Parliament House, House of Representatives and State Minister The Hon Meaghan Scanlon Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef - Support to continue Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Funding
9/06/2021	Letter from Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Youth Affairs to Leslie Shirreffs PSM Chair responding to issue - Land Tenure Resolution Program for the Wet Tropics of Queensland
29/06/2021	Copy of letter from Meaghan Scanlon MP Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Youth Affairs to Mr Mark Olsen, CEO Tourism Tropical North Queensland Response regarding support for continued funding for the Wet Tropics Management Authority in its Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
12/07/2021	Letter from the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP Minister for Indigenous Australians to Mr Scott Buchanan regarding the 16 th anniversary of Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement and Board meeting

16/07/2021	Letter from Mark Vis General Manager Infrastructure and Planning, Tablelands Regional Council to Scott Buchanan Executive Director (WTMA) regarding unsatisfactory road maintenance activities on Arthur Ballie Road, Ravenshoe (Response to the Authority's letter dated 29/4/2021)
No date	Letter from Daniel Hughes CEO AJ Hackett International to Ministers – Support to continue Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Funding

Correspondence Out:

24/05/2021	Leslie Shirreffs PSM Chair to The Hon Senator Susan McDonald MP requesting a meeting to discuss the Threat of Yellow Crazy Ants to farmers, natural resources, and tourism in the Townsville area (in particular threat to Wet Tropics World Heritage Area).
2/06/2021	Scott Buchanan Executive Director (WTMA) to Ian Potter Foundation to express support of the work of the Invasive Species Council.
23/06/2021	Scott Buchanan Executive Director (WTMA) to Prof. Michael Douglas Faculty of Science – School of Biological Science – University of Western Australia (M004) regarding Wet Tropics Management Authority's research priorities and Resilient Landscapes
24/06/2021	Scott Buchanan Executive Director (WTMA) to Sandal Hayes (Secretary: Friends of Ninney Rise) – Letter of Support for QLD Community Gambling Grant Application to paint the exterior of Ninney Rise
28/06/2021	Leslie Shirreffs Chair (WTMA), Liz Owen Director (Jaragun EcoServices, Stewart Christie CEO (Terrain NRM), Michael Kerr Mayor (Douglas Shire Council) to The Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP – Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Youth Affairs – Delivering Sustainable employment outcomes from the Queensland Government's Reef Assist Program

Resolution

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

4.0 Strategic Issues

4.1 WTMA and QPWS&P overview of land tenure resolution process: EKY negotiations and Cape York existing joint management arrangements

Tim Wong, Manager Planning and Conservation, reflected on the Board's priority to increase land tenure resolution in the Wet Tropics. The board wrote to Minister Scanlon in May 2021 to request an extension of the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) tenure resolution model south into the Wet Tropics. Minister Scanlon responded advising that the department does not intend to expand the CYPAL tenure resolution model and that their focus is on internal engagement with First Nations People and a new co-stewardship model. Tim suggested that there were opportunities to explore a number of different models within this approach including engaging the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

The board visited the first land tenure resolution process in the Wet Tropics (the Daintree) at the last meeting. This dealing is proposed for handback in late 2021. The process has taken about four years, involved 6.5 full time staff (employed by DES and Jabalbina), cost around \$6 million, and involved

extensive effort, legal advice, Land Council involvement, survey, agreement making, Traditional Owner consultation and hundreds of meetings. The Authority has been involved from the start. The Queensland Government has made concessions in negotiations. Jabalbina and the Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) members are happy with the negotiated outcomes and that it has been a solid and comprehensive process. Jabalbina is very well organised. There will be opportunities and challenges post handback.

James Newman shared his experience with the joint management in Cape York. The recognition and management of natural and cultural values in the region have increased significantly. Working on Country with Traditional Owners to managing grazing and fires – there are huge social wins and wins for conservation also. The agreements are complex. The best relationships are based on trust and long-term relationships. Aboriginal Corporations and Land Trust have significant turnover. Often dealing with multiple Traditional Owner groups. Managing expectations is incredibly important. It has been the best thing that ever happened to Cape York, including for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples, but it does need huge resources into the future.

The Board looks forward to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji hand back happening and how a co-stewardship model might happen in the future.

Resolution

The Board **endorse** the Executive Director to continue to talk to DES and QPWS&P to consider models and outcomes of the joint management review.

Action: Authority staff to discuss with RAP options re models and processes, without elevating expectations, but to ‘test the temperature’ of what groups want.

4.2 WTMA and QPWS&P Partnership Agreement update

Scott Buchanan advised the Board that the Partnership Agreement was signed early in 2020. It has a project-focused approach on key deliverables. QPWS&P will provide the Authority with a draft annual report on the 16 August, then it will proceed to Ben Klaassen for approval. Key achievements for 2020-21 include:

- A new governance structure which includes an operational committee to make sure projects moving forward; and a steering committee to respond to issues, blockages and hurdles. This has worked well since it was put in place and it has definitely improved communications between staff and visibility of projects.
- Projects are all progressing reasonably well:
 - The first range of projects: climate adaptation, fire management climate, mountaintop monitoring, are all moving along with some minor impediments.
 - RAPTT engagement continues to be very productive. QPWS&P are exceeding Indigenous employment targets within Northern region.
 - Research and engagement protocols trial extended to June 2022.
 - Strong participation from QPWS&P in the Rainforest Aboriginal People’s Regional Forum. QPWS&P contributed \$10,000.
 - QPWS&P strongly engaged in Sustainable Tourism Plan process.
 - Compliance strategy continues to improve. Some work for the Authority with our own compliance strategy.

4.3 The Authority's Business Case for Funding

The Chair advised that the board discussed the Authority's funding during an In Camera board meeting this morning. The board is concerned that the Authority's funding has not been increased since 2004. Executive Director, Scott Buchanan was authorised to commence discussions with departments. Leslie and Scott will be meeting virtually with senators and federal members with assistance from the Hon. Warren Entsch MP and Senator Nita Green.

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Wet Tropics Management Authority business case seeking additional ongoing (base) funding for the Authority.

Action: Leslie and Scott to also include a meeting with the Hon. Josh Frydenburg MP during their virtual meetings.

Day 1 Meeting closed at 1.30pm

Day 2 Meeting commenced at 8.30am

Additional apology:

James Newman, Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P

4.4 Ecological restoration (climate action) initiatives update, including symposium and State of the Wet Tropics report

Ms Ellen Weber, Senior Scientific Officer, Planning and Conservation provided the following update on the State of Wet Tropics (SOWT) report, that will be focused on ecological restoration in the Wet Tropics:

- The drafting team includes Carla Catterall, Cath Moran and Amanda Freeman. There will be a separate contract with the JCU ethno-botany centre for a 'healing country' chapter, to include an Indigenous perspective.
- The SOWT report will be drafted by the end of August. It will go to the Board, CCC and SAC for feedback in early September. Publication due to go to Canberra by end of September. Final publication expected to be aligned with publication of Annual Report. Both documents will be embargoed until they are tabled in Queensland and Commonwealth parliament, but stand alone data okay for immediate use.

The Board acknowledged the great team involved in writing the SOWT report and look forward to seeing the draft. The board commented that the report needs to talk about the SOWT now and how the Authority implements ecological restoration i.e. there has been rehabilitation as a result of the plan zones – could use a case study of zones pre and post plan review.

Action: Ellen to provide the Board, SAC and CCC members with advance notice of when they will receive draft SOWT report for review.

Ellen advised the board that the Landscape Restoration Symposium will be held at Lake Tinaroo on the 13-14 September 2021.

- Planning has accounted for field trip and symposium (with live stream capability)
- Two committees involved in the planning – one for logistics and a steering committee
- Restoration practitioners will be sharing learnings about restoration on day 1. Followed by yarnning circle with Traditional Owners. Then conference dinner at Tinaroo Resort.
- Symposium on day 2 includes three themes: 1. theory and practice of land restoration; 2. connection and country; and 3. future of restoration. Second day will be live-streamed. Restricted ticket numbers (70-75 people, \$25/person). Board, SAC and CCC members free.

The Chair acknowledged the team working on the symposium. The Board requested that Traditional Owner's be involved appropriately in the field trip for the symposium and the opportunity to broaden Traditional Owner participation from across the region, noting that the symposium applied to the whole Wet Tropics, not just the Atherton Tablelands.

Ecological Restoration Initiative

Ellen advised that Ecological Restoration Initiative work was delayed due to Covid-19, although an advocacy meeting was held last Thursday with the Queensland Trust & Nature, South Endeavour Trust, Trees for Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT), the Authority, Tablelands Regional Council, Terrain and DES. There is a huge appetite for this work.

The board discussed the need to define the Traditional Owners for the project area; determine whether a project prospectus can be launched for the symposium or if not, consider timing of the announcement; confirm partner commitment to the project; identify project risks; undertake pre-engagement work with the community to communicate why this project area was identified.

Actions: Ellen to project lead the delineation of the ecological restoration initiative project area, taking into consideration appropriate Traditional Owners, timing of announcements and project risks.

The board identified that the Jaragun's Russell Catchment Plan is quite pragmatic and could be used as a good example of what is required for a restoration initiative statement/prospectus. It was also noted that Expressions of Interest for the Land Restoration Fund close 8 October 2021.

Resolution

The Board:

- **Noted** the framework and outline for the 2020-2021 State of Wet Tropics Report, based on ecological and landscape restoration
- **Noted** the program for the Wet Tropics Landscape Restoration Symposium being held 13-14 September 2021, and
- **Noted** steps forward in progressing an ecological restoration initiative.

4.5 Funding plan update for the Yellow crazy ant eradication program, includes timelines and proposal to attract additional resourcing

Ms Lucy Karger, Project Manager, provided the following update on the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program:

- The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Annual Report is due to Commonwealth on the 25 June 2021.

- \$6m (50:50 shared) funding ask is consistent with what the program has been operating on for past three years – it is essential for continued success. 85% of the original area is now treated. Fourth site about to be declared eradicated. A number of new infestations also detected.
- Trips to Canberra and Brisbane postponed due to Covid-19. They may be virtual meetings.
- Stakeholder engagement process has generated letters of support i.e. from Canegrowers, MSF sugar and the Invasive Species Council - presentations to several groups ongoing
- Surveyed 646km of the boundary of World Heritage Area. One infestation detected. Survey season coming to an end soon. Casual staff numbers will be reduced. Opportunity to plan with those remaining and put new contracts in place.

The Board congratulated Lucy and her team on the work they are doing.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the funding plan update for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program, including timelines and proposal to attract additional resourcing

4.6 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional forum outcomes

Ms Alicia Haines, Principal Project Officer and Chrissy Grant provided an overview of the key outcomes from the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Forum held on the 23-25 July:

- 60 participants attended from 14 groups, government officers and staff from the Authority
- Closed session on Friday, official opening Saturday morning
- There were no key resolutions or mandates. Participants confirmed continued in-principal support to Supplementary Agreement and that RAPTT should continue to progress negotiations with government and explore future governance arrangements with youth involvement.
- RAPTT acknowledged Leslie's contribution to their work
- Feedback from participants: Not enough time for discussions; limited opportunity for the Authority and QPWS&P to report on deliverables against the Regional Agreement; but overall good forum
- There will be a RAPTT newsletter dedicated to the forum.

The Chair acknowledged the amazing role of Alicia, Saskia, Gal and team, and the enduring role of RAPTT. Chrissy offered a vote of thanks to Cath Moran who worked with the RAPTT and assisted workshop flow.

Resolution

The Board **noted** their ongoing commitment to progress the refresh of the Regional Agreement.

4.8 Review of the 18th Cassowary Awards – M'Lis Flynn

M'Lis Flynn, Senior Project Officer discussed Director's anonymous feedback on the Cassowary Awards with the Board.

Overall the Board thought it was an exceptional and very successful event. Key comments included:

- Mixed views around food and drinks

- Crowd movement needs to be managed or larger venues considered
- Gratitude and appreciation expressed for the MC's work on the evening
- Too much time allocated before the event - neutral views about the guided walk
- Need to encourage more nominations overall
- Review the age criteria for the Young Cassowary Award
- Clarify Wet Tropics specific criteria for all categories
- Identify opportunities to promote the winners more
- 150-250 attendees recommended
- Executive Director could give the thank you speech at the end of future Awards.

M'Lis advised that the staff review, sponsor survey and feedback from all attendees will be collated for the next board meeting. Also that Cairns Regional Council sustainability team is happy to support this event in the future.

The Chair congratulated M'Lis and the team for delivering another world class event under trying circumstances (i.e. with covid-19 restrictions).

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Authority will undertake a review of the Cassowary Awards with the community, partners and sponsors.

4.9 Guideline amendments - Fish translocation and Consulting Rainforest Aboriginal People with an interest in the land in the WT area

Mr Tim Wong, WTMA Manager, Planning & Conservation, acknowledged the board's priority to increase recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal People and that the Free Prior and Informed Consent Process (FPIC) was not clearly articulated in the Authority's Guideline 3. Under the Wet Tropics Management Plan (WTMP), there is no head of power to allow the delegate to make a decision based only on Rainforest Aboriginal People saying 'no' (i.e. a right of veto). This has been discussed with the North Queensland and Cape York Land Council's and they understand this. The delegate must consider s.59 (1) of the WTMP and the impact on Aboriginal Tradition and s.60(a.i) the likely impact on any native title and any other Aboriginal People particularly concerned with the land. If Traditional Owners agree with what is being proposed, the applicant needs to 'use their best endeavours to provide evidence e.g. a letter of support from the Traditional Owners.

The Board advised that there are gaps in the Guideline that need to be addressed e.g. to be consistent with local Traditional Owner law and governance principles where they exist; to be consistent with National Heritage listed cultural values or Restricted Access Area values in National Park Areas; and to show that it is possible in the future that the Authority may charge fees to cover native title costs (best practice approach).

Action: Tim Wong to update the Guidelines on Consulting Rainforest Aboriginal People with an interest in the land in the Wet Tropics and go back to the board for out of session approval. Next focus on WH values and integrity – ultimately all decisions based on this.

Tim Wong provided an overview of the Translocating a fish or crustacean guideline. The board requested that 'may' be used instead of 'will' or 'would' at point 12.

Resolution

The Board **approved** new s62 Guideline – Translocating a crustacean or fish in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area – with minor edits.

The Chair congratulated the planning and conservation team on their work. During the morning tea break, staff joined with the Board to acknowledge Bill Carrodus' impending retirement and his stellar 30 years of service.

5.0 General Business**5.1 Other business**

- Youth observer – the Board would like to explore how a youth observer on the Authority's board might work. This could be something the new Chair could consider. Consider male/female, Aboriginal person, payment options, timeline, mentoring. Opportunity to link with The Authority's developing youth engagement program.

Action: Rebecca to explore the possibilities and logistics of 1-2 youth observer/s on the board by the February board meeting.

- Questions for CCC and SAC – their next meeting is a joint meeting on the 27 October 2021.
 - SOWT report to go through Board, CCC and SAC for comment in early September.
 - Angela Siggery asked if cultural interest in dingoes could be raised with the CCC
- Extraordinary board meeting (half day) – focus on climate Change Workshop: half day
 - Leslie and Iain to meet to plan the agenda.
 - Rebecca to check Director's availability in September after the symposium.

Action: DAWE to enquire whether a copy of the CSIRO climate vulnerabilities report for world heritage properties can be made available to the Authority's Board prior to their climate change workshop on the 15 September.

5.2 Board Communique #116**Resolution**

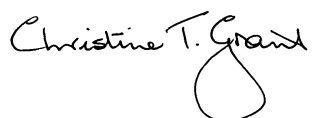
The Board **approved** the Communique for Meeting 116.

The next Board meeting on the 17-18 November will be in Cairns.

Board Meeting 116 closed at 12.15pm.



.....
Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM
Outgoing Chair
Date 5/08/2021



.....
Ms Christine T Grant
Chair
5/08/2021