

In Attendance

Board Directors

Ms Chrissy Grant	Chair
Professor Iain Gordon	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Dr Sally Driml	Director
Ms Ailsa Lively	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Observers

Sarah Titchen	Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Steven Doyle	Graduate, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
James Newman	Executive Director, Northern Parks & Forests, QPWS&P, DES
Adam Musial	A/Manager, World Heritage Team, Partnerships Branch, DES
Tracy Rose	Manager, Ecotourism, DES
Jeffery McAlister	Deputy Director General Tourism, Dept of Tourism, Innovation & Sport
Robbie Meddick	Director, Tourism Policy, Dept of Tourism, Innovation & Sport
Timothy Hartz	A/Director Adventure and Nature Based Tourism, Dept of Tourism, Innovation & Sport

WTMA Officers

Rebecca Lagerroth	Principal Advisor, Business Management
Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Ellen Weber	Senior Scientist, Planning and Conservation
Deb Simmons	Senior Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Alicia Haines	A/Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Sarah Jordan	Senior Project Officer – Tourism, World Heritage Connections
Julie Colman	Principal Planning Officer, Planning and Conservation
Angus McLeod	Senior Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation
Jodie Thomas	Senior Project Officer, World Heritage Connections

1. Introduction

1.1. Chair's welcome and introduction

The Chair, Ms Chrissy Grant, acknowledged the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and the Yirrganydji Traditional Owners of the Cairns area and paid respects on behalf of the board to their Elders past, present and emerging. She also welcomed all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this room. The Chair welcomed all board members, observers and staff to Board meeting 117 and acknowledged that this meeting will be the last meeting for Professor Iain Gordon and Phil Rist. It is also the first board meeting for her as the new Chair.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Angela Siggery	Director, Cultural Capability and Connections, DES
Lyn Wallace	A/Director, Cultural Capability and Connections
Martin Dallen	Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE
Shane Dagwell	Heritage Officer, Dept of Agriculture, Water and Environment
Fiona Wright	Executive Director, Ecotourism Development, DES

1.3. Conflicts of Interest

Sally Driml finished work on the independent crocodile evaluation management committee and is continuing work as an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland. She did an ABC interview about tourism last week, similar to the Authority's Smashed Avocadoes presentation.

The Chair declared a conflict of interest for Eastern Kuku Yalanji business. The Chair will step out of the position for any decision coming across the Board for Eastern Kuku Yalanji decisions as per the following resolution passed at the Board Director's closed session yesterday afternoon:

Resolution

The Board:

- **Notes** that Ms Chrissy Grant is responsible for performing the functions of Chairperson of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, except to the extent that the functions of office are relevant to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People and Country; and in accordance with Section 31(1) of the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*.
- **Appoints** Dr Sally Driml to act as Chairperson of the Wet Tropics Management Authority during any period, or all periods, of not longer than 3 months, when the current Chairperson, Ms Chrissy Grant, is unable to perform the functions of office to the extent that it is relevant to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People and Country; and in accordance with Section 20 (1) of the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*.
- **Notes** that all conflict of interests will be recorded in the board minutes and the current Chairperson, Ms Chrissy Grant, will withdraw from deliberations/decisions.

2. Previous Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Endorsement of Board Minutes No 116

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for Board meeting 116 with changes from Director Sally Driml for section 3.6 on CCC report. These minutes will be co-signed by the Chair of the meeting 116 and the Chair of meeting 117.

2.2 Extraordinary meeting – climate workshop debrief and next steps

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the minutes for the extraordinary meeting with the following amendments:

- add Ailsa Lively as an attendee.
- Drop statement emissions reduced by 5%. Use "Emissions reduction continues to be of continued importance and included in statements as the Authority's main game".

These minutes will be co-signed by the Chair of the extraordinary meeting and the Chair of meeting 117.

2.3 Out of Session – Section 62 Guidelines – Consulting Rainforest Aboriginal People

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the Section 62 Guidelines as an Interim Guideline, with the Chair's changes incorporated, to replace the existing outdated Section 62 Guideline. Further consultation will occur with the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Think Tank (RAPTT) at their 1-2 December meeting and with new Board Directors. The Interim Guidelines will be finalised at the March 2021 Board meeting.

Action: Tim to provide a copy of the Section 62 Interim Guideline to the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT) meeting 1-2 December, for their information.

2.3 Actions Arising

No	Meeting	Agenda item	Comments
4 and 5	113	4.9 and 4.10	The Authority hasn't had the capacity to progress the teacher ambassadors or communications strategy. These items will be reviewed. The communications strategy will be discussed at the next board meeting.
13	116	4.1	The Queensland Government has no appetite to expand joint management south of the Daintree River. The Department of Environment and Science (DES) is looking at a co-stewardship model. The Authority commented on a draft Co-stewardship Policy.
20	Extraordinary meeting	1.4	The Authority didn't do a media release for the Landscape Restoration Symposium due to the media release for Sustainable Tourism Plan launch in the same week. A media release will go out when there is news about the Alliance.
24	Extraordinary meeting	1.9	The CCC can assist with preparing the checklist for ethical funding.

Resolution

The Board **updated** the actions arising.

3. Reports

3.1 Chair's Report

The Chair briefed the board on the following recent activities:

- Met with Jeff McAlister and Leslie Shirreffs about Traditional Owner support for Eco Trail.
- Attended Eastern Kuku Yalanji handback celebration – there was a lot of media from 28 September to 21 October about the Authority's position on joint management across the Wet Tropics for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.
- Met Minister Crawford and Tim Wong (Acting Executive Director) at the handback – discussed the Tracks for Treaty funding.
- Met Minister Scanlon, Barry Hunter and Tim Wong (Acting Executive Director) – discussed the refresh of the Regional Agreement.
- Met Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) to discuss funding for governance relating to the Regional Agreement. They are meeting with the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Think Tank (RAPTT) on 1-2 December.
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) released their Sustainable Tourism Plan about a week before the launch of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan.
- Met Daniel Gschwind, Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) – discussed synergies across the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics. Joint meeting of the Tourism

Reef Advisory Committee (TRAC) and Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC) in February. Sally Driml asked to participate in future meetings with a tourism focus.

- Met Minster Scanlon and local members Curtis Pitt MP and Michael Healy MP on 14 October about Yellow Crazy Ant (YCA) funding.
- The Chair discussed priority items in her handover notes from the previous Chair.

Actions:

- Review the Board's strategic risk register at the Director's first meeting in 2022.
- Organise Director training for new members in early 2022.

Resolution

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

3.2 Executive Director's Report

Scott Buchanan, Executive Director, briefed the board on the following issues:

- The Authority is advising the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (DAWE) on two renewable energy development proposals adjacent to the World Heritage Area under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The loss of carbon storage from clearing, environmental impact and community impact is a real concern. There is an action for the Authority to write a letter, although there is a lot of uncertainty and no regional planning.
- Met the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Chair, Dr Ian Poiner and Chief Executive Officer, Josh Thomas. The GBRMPA Board's has a full agenda for their next 6 meetings so there is no opportunity for a joint board meeting. The GBRMPA board will invite Scott and the Authority's Chair to a meeting of Chairs and CEOs.
- It's been a busy quarter and it's had a significant impact on the community engagement and communications team. Saskia has started strategic planning with her team for 2022 projects.
- The Authority's Working for Queensland survey results were discussed with Directors. Scott will now work with the staff to go through the results and implement actions.
- Scott thanked Tim Wong for acting in the Executive Director role while he was on leave and provided a HR update on staff movements.

Resolution

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

Action: Tim Wong to provide advice to the Board on the proposed way forward with the letter to the Honorable Michael (Mick) de Brenni re: Chalumbin wind farm.

3.3 Directors' Issues

Nil director reports provided.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Department reports

Adam Musial, World Heritage Team, DES

- Committee appointment processes are underway for K'gari (Fraser Island), Riversleigh and Gondwana.

- New signage and infrastructure are being installed at Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park and a Management Plan is being co-developed with Traditional Owners.
- Approval given to officially rename Fraser Island to K'gari. A celebration day was held with Butchulla People in October 2021. The Committee will meet in early February 2022. Symposium being held on K'Gari next Thursday.
- Submission to list Quandamooka. Several archeological digs to support the claim.
- Team has supported stakeholders and QPWS&P to submit four Australian Heritage Grant applications: for K'Gari, Gondwana rainforest, Riversleigh and Elizabeth Springs.

Sarah Titchen, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage Branch, DAWE

- Unprecedented amount of State of Conservation reporting.
- Change in leadership in UNESCO – acting interim Director in France, Australian will be one of the outgoing members in the World Heritage Committee.
- Australian Heritage Strategy updates are due but delayed.
- Australian Heritage Council has a new Chair, Ted Baillieu. 1-2 December is their next meeting. Indigenous pairs are Jamie Lowe and Leah Cameron.
- Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) meeting tomorrow.
- Providing heritage advice on the wind farm proposals Chalumbin and upper Burdekin.
- Acknowledged exemplary Yellow Crazy Ant project reporting. Next payment approved for 7 December.

Jeffrey McAlister. Deputy Director General, DTIS

Interim Action Plan for Tourism Recovery – strategic review of Queensland Tourism recovery:

- The key areas relevant for the Authority (from page 10 of the Action Plan) are:
 - catalysts for change: 2) sustainability and 4) first nations and regenerative tourism.
- The Department of Tourism Innovation and Sport (DTIS) is keen to engage with the Authority on land adjacent to national parks for low impact tourism/ecotourism development. A survey/audit of potential sites is being prepared and will be provided when ready.
- DTIS is working with QPWS&P on their campgrounds – run down campgrounds are being renovated and premium and standard campsites are being offered.
- There has been a big focus on First Nations. Indigenous Queensland tourism conference held last week and a lot of talk about a First Nations tourism plan. Business Development Officers extended to 2023 (Marty Ingram in Cairns). Now 250 Indigenous operators in Queensland.
- An Industry reference panel, chaired by Liz Savage, will look at ongoing streams of work, systemic blockages and how to work with Indigenous groups i.e. joint management approach across the state.

COVID-19 Plan to Unit Queenslanders:

- DTIS on industry reference group. Looking at airport check-in procedures, mandatory worker vaccinations and a reboot on the 'work in paradise' campaign north of Mackay.

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

- QPWS has commenced a Ranger and Wildlife Experience Project to address red tape and workload issues. Andrew Millerd is leading a team of five A08 staff looking at finance, HR, planning and prioritisation, management systems and reporting.
- A HR update on staff movements in north region was provided.

- QPWS's Working for Queensland results were discussed with Directors, and noted as positive overall. The department will be reviewing results further with staff to determine priority areas to address.
- Parks have been responding to several fires on the Cape and out west.
- Four Jabalbina Rangers and three Dawul Waru Rangers now have received compliance training and authorisation in the Wet Tropics.
- The Eastern Kuku Yalanji handback was celebrated recently. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA and Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) were signed with the Minister and the Authority. There hasn't been a Joint Management meeting yet.
- QPWS&P has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wanyurr Majay Traditional Owners.
- Third party investment is unlikely to cover ongoing maintenance costs of the Wangetti trail in the National Park.
- An update on the Refining DES process was provided.

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

Iain advised the Board that the SAC and CCC workshop is scheduled for Thursday. The workshop will cover issues for the climate alliance and delivery of on-ground actions for climate adaption and resilience. The Authority's Chair, Sally and Iain are attending. The approved Agenda has been sent to the committees. Between 25-28 people are expected to attend.

Resolution

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

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

There has not been a CCC meeting since the last Board meeting, so there is nothing new to report from the CCC.

3.6 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the Significant Correspondence.

Correspondence In:

12/07/2021	Response to letter of 29 of 29 April 2021 from The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians regarding the 16 th anniversary of the Wet Tropics of Queensland Regional Agreement. Congratulations on reaching this important milestone.
12/08/2021	Response to letter of 28 June 2021, jointly signed by Ms Liz Owen, Mr Stewart Christie and Cr Michael Kerr. Letter from The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs regarding the delivery of sustainable employment outcomes from the Queensland Government's Reef Assist Program.
17/08/2021	Letter from The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, thanking Leslie Shirreffs for active role chairing the Authority's Board.
19/08/2021	Letter from The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Thanking Leslie Shirreffs for service to the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board.
31/08/2021	Letter from The Honourable Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, thanking and congratulating Leslie Shirreffs for time serving as Chair of the Board of Directors on the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

10/11/2021	Letter from Steven Nowakowski regarding the rollout of large renewable energy projects adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
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Correspondence Out:

Date	From/To
3/07/2021	Submission to Ms Liz Savage, Chair, Tourism Industry Reference Panel, via DTIS contacts Gayle O'Brien and Jeffrey McAlister – Designing our tourism future – discussion paper and the link to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998: https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/s1-1998-0161
15/07/2021	Letter to House of Representatives, Parliament House requesting meeting in Canberra to highlight significant achievements from the Authority's two funding agreements with the Commonwealth and the importance of continued investment to effectively manage the World Heritage Area
27/08/2021	Letter of Support to Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Business Excellence Award Sustainability Category – nominating Small World Journeys for the Sustainability Category of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award
1/09/2021	Letter to Mr Mark Vis, General Manager Infrastructure and Planning, Tablelands Regional Council regarding road maintenance activity on Arthur Baillie Road, Ravenshoe: Wet Tropics permit WTMA19005
1/09/2021	Letter to Mr John Sadler, General Manager – Development (QLD) Epuron regarding proposed Chalumbin Windfarm project
8/09/2021	Invitation to The Honourable Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, to attend the launch of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan – 21 September
27/10/2021	Response letter to Prue Hewitt regarding the Blue Pool, Cooper Creek
28/10/2021	Letter of Support to Gavin Singleton, Project Manager, Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation for Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporations application to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area Program Grant Opportunity

Resolution

The Board noted the Significant Correspondence report.

4.0 Strategic Issues

4.1 Quarterly Budget Update

Scott Buchanan, Executive Director, provided an overview of the Authority's budget and delays in expenditure. He provided Directors with a proposal to address the extra carryover and get the budget back on track. He explained the YCA project is considering contingencies until the outcome of requests for additional funding are known (or carryover past June 2022).

Scott and the Chair are meeting with Warren Entsch tomorrow to discuss the Authority's business case. A copy of the business case has been provided to Department of Water and Environment (DAWE) also.

Action: Scott Buchanan to send the Authority's business case directly to Sarah Titchen for feedback.

Resolution

The Board noted the three-monthly review of 2021-21 budget and endorsed the proposed actions to direct contingency funds towards the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance, the Sustainable Tourism Plan, Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program and contingencies to support the Board.

4.2 Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Wet Tropics

The Authority's Landscape Restoration Symposium was held on the 13-14 September on the Atherton Tableland. A key outcome of the Symposium was the launch of a Restoration Alliance, with 29 signatories of support. The Authority has drafted a partnership model for the Alliance that will be discussed further with the SAC and CCC on Thursday. The Board considered draft questions about the Partnership Model for the Alliance, for the SAC and CCC to provide advice on, and provided feedback.

Action: Ellen Weber to refine the SAC and CCC questions (about the partnership model for the Alliance) to a maximum of 5, with the Director's feedback and send to Iain and Sally for approval.

The SAC and CCC will refine the Partnership Model for the Alliance. The Alliance will finish the document. Proposing to hold the first Restoration Alliance workshop with the signatories and the Board in February 2022. The Authority was ineligible to apply for the Land Restoration Fund, although is currently exploring an opportunity for a partnership approach and investment with DES to progress this initiative.

The Board prepared a draft position statement 'Responding to Climate Change Impacts on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area' after their extraordinary meeting in September 2021, however it wasn't released because of the media focus on the launch of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan.

Resolutions

The Board **agreed** to retain the draft Board position statement 'Responding to Climate Change Impacts on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area' as a reference document, with the Chair's amendment included. A decision about release will be made in the future.

The Board **noted** the outcomes of the Wet Tropics Restoration Symposium, progress in developing the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance, other landscape restoration initiatives and funding opportunities.

4.3 YCA program achievements / advocacy update

Lucy Karger, Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program, advised the Board that overall, the program is achieving excellent results in meeting milestones. Achievements to date include:

- Eradicated ants from 4 sites
- 71% of the area no longer requires broadscale treatment
- Strong community and industry engagement
- Strategic collaboration with sugar industry and targeted surveillance
- Skilled multidisciplinary team
- Odour detection dogs

The Authority is looking for continued investment of \$6 million a year for 6 years. Modelling indicates that, with continued funding, the Authority will achieve 88% eradication of existing known areas and the remaining 12% in post treatment validation. The response to the funding ask with both the Queensland and Commonwealth politicians has been really positive.

The board identified that YCA have cultural impacts for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples. Culturally iconic species, like frogs, have significant stories attached to them for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples. Seeing them attacked by yellow crazy ants is distressing. These impacts are underestimated, and Traditional Owners get frustrated that cultural values have to compete with and often lose out to economic values for industry. It was noted that the Authority is not recording data on how native species are being

impacted by the ants. The only information available is based on observations by landholders and the community. James Cook University (JCU) is undertaking invertebrate research.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the achievements to date of the Authority in delivering the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and the update on advocacy for continued funding to the Authority for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program from 1 July 2022.

4.4 RAPTT Update

RAPTT members held a closed meeting last week. The next RAPTT meeting is on 1-2 December, with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). Directors discussed the key outcomes RAPTT were hoping to achieve from the meeting.

Director Phil Rist provided an update on the current status of the RAPTT cultural values project, auspiced by Giringun Aboriginal Corporation. Yancey Orr is now employed as the Project Officer and the milestone report was submitted last month. The project was extended to June 2022. It could be highly unlikely that the project will be extended further if there is little progress with the project meeting its objectives. RAPTT will subcontract components of the work out.

Alicia Haines informed Directors that the Authority submitted an Australian Heritage Grant application for a Wet Tropics cultural landscape hub. If successful the project will promote best practice engagement principles, and guidance on how to visit areas and encourage appropriate behaviours. The project concept was identified as a priority in the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan. The Board requested that RAPTT be engaged with the project and continue to provide guidance and advice to the Authority.

Action: Alicia Haines to discuss the Authority's Australian Heritage Grant (AHG) new application with RAPTT to see if there is any common ground, and to ensure there isn't duplication between the RAPTT AHG project and the Authority's proposed AHG project.

The Chair advised that she cannot be fully engaged in RAPTT as the Chair of the Authority so will be stepping out as a RAPTT member. She will continue to be a critical friend to RAPTT. The Terms of Reference for RAPTT needs to be updated following the conversation about membership, and roles and responsibilities need to be clarified.

The Authority has \$40,000 allocated in the budget to support RAPTT and proposes to put some of this funding towards a RAPTT project officer.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the current funding and governance arrangements for the RAPTT, and endorsed the proposal to invest RAPTT funds into supporting the RAPTT in negotiating a partnership arrangement with the GBRF and undertake an EOI process for new membership.

The Board **noted** the report from Phil Rist on the Australian Heritage Grant for the cultural values project.

4.5 DES Ecotourism Update

Tracey Rose, Manager Ecotourism, DES, provided an update on the Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas (EPPA) that the Department has been developing. The document will be shared with the Authority once approved.

Tracey provided an update on the permit application process for the Wangetti Trail (south), from Palm Cove to Wangetti.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the DES Ecotourism update

4.7 Update on walking trails in the Wet Tropics

Timothy Hotz, A/Director Adventure and Nature Based Tourism, DTIS, provided the following update on walking trails in the Wet Tropics:

Wangetti Trail (south section): 33km from Palm Cove to Port Douglas. Grade 3 shared-use trail. Design almost 90% complete. Seeking Council approvals and approaching final stages of EPBC referrals. Terrain NRM is nominated as the regional NRM group for the offsets. Presented to the Cassowary Recovery Group. Hoping to commence construction before Christmas. In final stages of ILUA negotiations with broader Cairns claim group. The trails will support Indigenous economic social development.

Paluma and Wallaman Falls: There have been delays with this project. Engagement activities impacted with COVID-19 restrictions in place. DTIS need to reengage with the Traditional Owners following the recent Warrgamay Native Title determination.

Sally Driml advised DTIS that the Paluma community are yet to be consulted.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the DTIS Wet Tropics walking trails update.

4.7 Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan Implementation

Sarah Jordan, Senior Project Officer – Tourism, provided Directors with an overview of the Authority's tourism project, which included the launch of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan in September 2021. Since then, the Authority has focused on promoting the plan and collaborative opportunities. An inter-agency governmental working group will help drive the implementation of the Plan. A social media campaign will run over the next 3 months to further promote the Plan. Savannah Guides will host two more roadshows, coinciding with Ambassador workshops, before the end of June.

The Authority received a lot of positive feedback on the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan from partners. Sarah outlined a number of exciting opportunities that partners would like to collaborate on. She updated Directors on the process to identify priorities and the priority actions in process, including proactive engagement with QPWS&P to plan for visitor sites. The Board requested that the roadmap align with the board's consideration of budget priorities for next year.

Resolutions

The Board **noted** the status update of the implementation of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021 – 2031 and the establishment of an interagency working group to ensure the strategic and collaborative implementation of the Plan.

The Board **noted** the commencement of negotiations with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and QPWS&P to deliver the evolution of the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program.

4.8 Act amendments update

Julie Colman, Principal Planning Officer, provided Directors with an overview of how the Authority is progressing with amendments to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*. All of the matters have previously been considered by the board. The first set of amendments, related to Conran review matters, are currently progressing through the Nature Conservation and other Legislation Amendments (NCOLA) bill. The second set, related to relatively non-contentious matters that reflect the Plan amendment, are progressing through the Environment Protection and other Legislation Amendments (EPOLA) bill. The third set, relating to more complex matters that may require an assessment of regulatory impacts, are proposed to be progressed through a second Environment Protection and other Legislation Amendments (EPOLA 2) bill.

Action: Provide a detailed Act and Plan session for the new directors in the board induction process, to help with their understanding of responsibilities.

Julie advised Directors that there is an error in the definition of rainforest in the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 that needs to be fixed as soon as possible. The board will need to approve the change so that the Authority can brief the Minister to formalise the amendment.

Action: Julie Colman to prepare an out of session paper for Directors before the 25 November, to seek board approval to fix the definition of rainforest in the Management Plan.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the progress of amendments to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* through three separate Bills.

4.9 Wet Tropics Management Plan Guidelines

Angus McLeod, Senior Conservation Officer, provided directors with an overview of the issues with the Minor and Inconsequential Guidelines, including that it was originally a Section 62 Guideline but has been updated to be a Section 28 Guideline. There are two components, the Guideline itself and a checklist to base decisions on. The recommended amendments strengthen the Guideline, ensure its comprehensive and transparent in terms of how the Authority arrives at decision about minor and inconsequential activities.

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Section 28 Guideline - Minor and Inconsequential Impact.

5.0 Board communique:

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Communique for Meeting 117.

6.0 General Business:

Flying foxes

Action: Sally to resend information to Directors about flying foxes. Include flying foxes on the agenda of the next board meeting.

Acknowledging Outgoing Directors

The Chair acknowledged Phil Rist and Iain Gordon for the time that they've spent on the board and the incredible work that they've done since they joined the board: Iain joined on the 26 November 2015 and Phil on the 26 May 2016. Both Phil and Iain reflected on their time with the Board and thanked the Directors and staff for the experience.

Next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Cairns in late March.

Action: Poll Directors to confirm late March Board meeting dates, once new Director are appointed.

Board Meeting 117 closed at 4.24pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine T. Grant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, loopsy 'G' at the end.

Ms Christine T Grant
Chair
1/04/2021