

In Attendance**Board Directors**

Ms Chrissy Grant	Chair
Professor Stephen Williams	Director
Ms Robin Clark	Director
Dr Sally Driml	Director
Ms Ailsa Lively	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Observers

Shane Dagwell	Heritage Officer, Heritage Projects section, DAWE
James Newman	Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P
Jeffrey McAlister	Deputy Director General, Tourism and Major Events, DTIS
Sarah De Vries	Principal Project Officer, OGBRWH, DES

WTMA Officers

Rebecca Lagerroth	Principal Advisor, WTMA
Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Julie Colman	Principal Planning Officer
Ellen Weber	Senior Scientist, Climate Initiatives
Audrey Reilly	Senior Conservation Officer
Sarah Jordan	Senior Project Officer, Tourism
Phoebe Kinley	Principal Project Officer, Presentation and Engagement
Matt Cheetham	Senior Project Officer, Communications and Engagement
Keith Speyers	Senior Project Officer

Minute Taker

Kylie McQuie	HR Dynamics
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1. Introduction**1.1. Chair's welcome and introduction**

The Chair acknowledged the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and the Yirrganydji Traditional Owners of the Cairns area and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Chair noted the appointment process for a First Nations male Director was still in progress. The Chair welcomed Directors, observers and staff to the meeting including Phoebe Kinley who has recently joined the Wet Tropics Management Authority as the Principal Project Officer – Presentation and Engagement.

Noted that for item 4.6 of the agenda, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country, Chair, Chrissy Grant has a conflict of interest and therefore in accordance with the decision taken at Board Meeting No. 117, Dr Sally Driml will be the Chair for that discussion and update.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Angela Siggery – Director, Partnerships branch, DES
- Alicia Haines – Acting Principal Project Officer, Wet Tropics Management Authority
- Martin Dallen – Acting Director, Heritage Projects section, DAWE
- Debra Simmons – Senior Project Officer, Wet Tropics Management Authority

1.3. Conflicts of Interest

Noted that for item 4.6 of the agenda, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country, Chair, Chrissy Grant has a conflict of interest and therefore in accordance with the decision taken at Board Meeting No. 117, Dr Sally Driml will be the Chair for that discussion and update.

2. Previous Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Endorsement of Board Minutes No 118

Resolution

The Board **approved** the minutes for Board meeting 118.

2.2 Actions Arising

Scott Buchanan presented the actions arising report to Directors. The following additional updates were recorded:

No	Meeting	Agenda Item / Action	Comments
1	113	Teacher Ambassadors	Consultation commenced and ongoing. Action complete.
2	113	Communications Strategy	Due in December 2022 and consultations will begin in the near future.
3	116	Item 3.6 / joint Board and CCC meeting	Meeting held 9 June 2022. Action complete.
4	116	CCC Report – Helicopter issue	Waiting for Peter Rowles to reply.
16	118	Item 3.5 / Board feedback provided to the CCC	Board met with CCC on 9 June 2022. Action complete.
17	118	ARE trial evaluation report sent to Director Steve Williams (and other Directors) for comment	Draft report sent to Directors on 6 June 2022. Action complete.
19	118	Letter to CAFNEC with Board's response to EDO report on Flying foxes	Letter sent to Lucy Graham, Director of CAFNEC on 8/06/2022. Action complete.
20	118	Director Training	Seeking quotes for Director Training - training will occur after 1 July 2022 and waiting for appointment of First Nations male Director to execute.
22	118	Board priority table updated	Board priority table sent to Directors on 2 June 2022 and discussed on 9 June (yesterday) in the Board's planning workshop. Action complete.

No	Meeting	Agenda Item / Action	Comments
23	118	Board planning day	Board planning day held 9 June 2022. Action complete.
25/26	118	Letter to Minister Scanlon requesting research on Spectacled flying foxes in World Heritage Areas	Letter sent to Minister Scanlon on 8 June 2022. Action complete.
30	118	Involving Youth on the Board	Working Group initiated. Action complete
32	118	Funding for involving Youth on the Board	Ongoing Action.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the actions arising.

3. Reports

3.1 Chair's Report

The Chair Chrissy Grant briefed the Board on the following significant activities:

Various meetings including discussing:

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with Dr Terri Janke. Have not received the report yet
- one policy for Wet Tropics Management Authority policy regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent with Allan Dale
- the Landscape Hub with Saskia
- the Business Case with Robin, Sally and Scott (give an update later today)
- young people involvement with both the Board and Wet Tropics Management Authority with Sally Rebecca, Matt and Luke and community feedback at the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) yesterday
- Media Interviews regarding Reef Assist Funding (Media have been wanting to discuss Eastern Kuku Yalanji handover and the Wet Tropics)

Community Involvement:

- Member of Steering Committee for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Cultural Values Management Plan
- Member of Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC), committee met in April
- Chair of the Working Group for AWHAC Cultural Values
- Visited the Yellow Crazy Ant operations base
- Acknowledgement letters written and sent to new Commonwealth Ministers
- Acknowledgement of yesterday's Board resolution to change the name from Board Priorities (2021-2024) to Board Key Focus Areas that will be reviewed annually

Resolution

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

3.2 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director Scott Buchanan provided the following updates to directors:

Human Resources:

- Appointment of Phoebe Kinley as Principal Project Officer, Presentation and Engagement.
- Appointment of Ian Holloway as Geographic Information Systems Officer.
- Review of two Geographic Information Systems Officers classification from PO2 to PO3.
- All Vickers St employees were employed with temporary funding until June, have secured an extension until December 2022, but a few have left recently, the uncertainty would not have helped.
- Once we get certainty of funding for Yellow Crazy Ant project, we will look to fill vacancies including communications and engagement officers.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority is losing employees to QPWS but gaining employees from QPWS.
- Previously there were constraints in advertising for positions, can now advertise externally provided there is funding, and the position doesn't exceed the cap.
- Rebecca's position as Principal Advisor was advertised on Wednesday. Using First Nations platform Pipeline for this process. Rebecca has agreed to assist with the process. Panel will consist of Chrissy, Scott and Rebecca.
- Julie will act in the position of Principal Advisor from Monday 21 June 2022 until 26 July 2022.
- Struggling to bring in Project Officers for projects as our HR cap is at its limit.
- Reef Assist Film Premier: attended with Ailsa and Robin for the launch of the Wet Tropics Management Authority 10-minute video (excellent, emotional, and engaging) held at Tjapukai Now with approximately 60 people (associated with Youth Round Table Forum).
- Meeting on Wangetti Beach with Queensland Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk: Tim and Ellen arranged local rangers from the Reef Assist program to meet the Premier on the beach. The rangers spoke powerfully to the Premier, who made a promise to continue Reef Assist 2.
- The ranger's discussion with the Premier about participation in Reef Assist was mentioned at the Indigenous Reconciliation Awards.
- Question arose whether Wet Tropics Management Authority will have an opportunity to apply for round 2 of funding, unsure at this stage. Even though there is an extension for round 1 there is no guarantee for round 2.
- The 'refining DES' (proposed new organisational structure) is yet to be finalised – very little impact on WTMA, though it is proposed that the World Heritage Unit will move from QPWS to EPP.

Important meetings

- Lucy and Scott met with Curtis Pitt and Minister Scanlon at Parliament House, hoping for an announcement by Queensland government by 21st June regarding further funding for Yellow Crazy Ant Program for Cairns and Townsville. Commonwealth Australian Labor Party made promises during election campaign,
- Scott met with Biosecurity Queensland to resolve communication issues, very productive and now working on a 6-year project plan and access issues for Yellow Crazy Ants in Townsville.
- Cairns Eco Fiesta, run by Cairns Regional Council, yearly event was held a couple of weeks ago, with excellent attendance. The Authority had a stall with the theme "Ants and Plants". There were 26 volunteers running the stall and gave away hundreds of plants. Ellen did a

fantastic job working with Powerlink on this event. Will look at working with Townsville for their Eco Fiesta and a broader engagement with the Townsville area.

- The vacancy of Rainforest Aboriginal male Director on the Board: has been proposed to both the Queensland government and Commonwealth government. However, with a change in government and Ministers, a draft letter now needs to be written to state Minister Scanlon to give to federal Minister Plibersek.
- Funding proposal has been submitted with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES): As part of recovery funding and how to plan for recovery, cost benefit analysis using natural system regeneration.

Resolution:

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

3.3 Directors' Issues

Dr Sally Driml

- The Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Ecotourism Australia, Queensland First Nations Tourism Council, Queensland Conservation Council, Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Parks Association Queensland (NPAQ) have formed an historic Tourism and Conservation Alliance to advocate for the expansion and better management of Queensland's protected areas to protect nature and boost ecotourism.
- This is a powerful body that will lobby the Queensland State government for funding and expansion of the Protected Area Estate. Sally has links with these organisations but is not a member and will have no role moving forward.

Ms Ailsa Lively:

- Attended the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Think Tank (RAPTT) meeting in April where they were working on completing the funding submission to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). At the last Regional Forum Minister Crawford agreed to be a champion for RAPTT, however not received in writing, will ask at the next Regional Forum.
- Volunteered to be the Chair of the steering committee for the Cultural Landscapes Hub project.
- Attended the Youth Round Table Forum and was a member of the panel. Presented to from youth and young people about what their aspirations are for the World Heritage Area and what they want us to do for them.

Professor Stephen Williams:

- Involved with National Environmental Science Program (NESP) research in the Wet Tropics however will discuss during the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) report.
- Part of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Whitsunday Climate Change Innovation Hub, there is opportunity for the Wet Tropics Management Authority to partner with them as they have the same goals and aims. They have a current proposed project for biodiversity mapping and conservation planning. The outcomes of this project will be used in local government planning decisions.

Ms Robin Clark:

- Attended the Reef Assist Film Premier with Ailsa and Scott for the launch of the Wet Tropics Management Authority 10-minute video held at Tjapukai Now with approximately 60 people (associated with Youth Round Table Forum).
- Attended the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) networking meeting.

- Is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia Climate Change working group. The organisation has declared a climate emergency and released a 10-point plan. This includes advocating for the amendment of planning legislation to include the impact of climate change on development.
- Is an advocate for heat and extreme heat events to be incorporated into all levels of planning and government. The 14 June 2022 is International Heat Action Day. The Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience is conducting a free webinar from 11am – 12pm, go to www.aidr.org.au to register. The local branch of Planning Institute of Australia is conducting an Urban Heat Seminar on Friday 8 July 2022.

Action:

- Sally to share the Tourism and Conservation Alliance Joint Statement document with the Board.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to consider developing a relationship with the Whitsundays Climate Change Innovation Hub Scientific Advisory Committee.

Resolution:

The Board **noted** the directors' reports.

3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Government Department reports

James Newman (Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forest, QPWS&P):

- The Wallaman Falls Girringun National Park capital works project (campground, car parks, visitor centre, walks) is still in the planning phase, there will be no construction this financial year
- Eastern Kuku Yalanji Cultural Centre in the Daintree: have approved the communications for the development approval of public notices. Design work is now complete.
- The Authority and QPWS have been working together on compliance in Paluma Range National Park. This is a complex matter and will take some time to resolve.
- The Authority and QPWS have been work together on antisocial activity that has escalated at Quads Road.
- Incursions project running throughout the Wet Tropics: 3 sites underway as a result of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji hand back. Currently briefing Director General on next steps.
- Acknowledgement of feedback from last Wet Tropics Management Authority Board meeting regarding QPWS Climate Adaptation Plan for Northern Region for Fire Management. Feedback has been taken on board and the plan has been approved.
- Climate change and fire season – target is 5% and currently at 1.5% (3.5% below target). Unsuccessfully attempting to apply fire across the landscape across Queensland. Similar fire year to 2012, drying out very quickly and not a lot of fuel burnt which means there will be larger campaign fires this year.
- Conducted first and historic Joint Management meeting with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC).

Comments

- There is a call from Wet Tropics Management Authority Community Consultative Committee (CCC) members that a walking track strategy is developed for the Paluma Range National Park. However, there are a number of complex issues including quasi agreements, cultural heritage matters and individuals' actions before that can be developed.

- In regard to the Climate Adaptation Plan for Northern Region for Fire Management, there will be further development and input from the Wet Tropics Management Authority for the Wet Tropics component under the partnership agreement.
- Are there any particular areas QPWS are concerned about regarding the fire season? North of Townsville, especially on the western side (savannah). QPWS is attempting to reduce the fuel load but because the wet season has gone so long, the window can be days.

Shane Dagwell (Acting Assistant Director, Heritage Projects section, DAWE)

- A new Australian Government Ministry has been sworn in and the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, is the Minister for the Environment and Water.
- There will be 2 new Departments of State:
 - o in the existing portfolio, the current department will be renamed the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
 - o a new department will be established from 1 July 2022 – the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (CCEEW).
- What this means is that the environment, water and climate functions within the current department will be joining with elements of the current Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to form the new Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- The Commonwealth Government's election commitments towards World Heritage Includes:
 - o Maintaining World Heritage status for Australia's currently listed sites, including the Great Barrier Reef.
 - o Looking into the expansion of World Heritage protection for the Cape York Peninsula and West Kimberley, and into adding cultural and Indigenous heritage values as part of World Heritage and National Heritage listed areas, including the Daintree.
- Will be looking to increase funding for the management of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) as it is an important part of increasing the proportion of land under protection.
- Under the \$224.5 million Saving Native Species Program the government has committed \$24.8 million to fight Yellow Crazy Ants in Cairns and Townsville. Discussions have begun with the Authority on this matter. The mechanism to deliver the funding is yet to be finalised. The Commonwealth is expecting the State Government to provide matching funding for at least the Wet Tropics component of that funding, as they do now.
- Will look to establish an Environment Protection Agency to ensure compliance with environmental laws, improve processes for proponents, and centralise data collection and analysis – to provide consistent and reliable information on the state of the environment across the country.
- Will continue to work with stakeholders on environmental law reform, to make the nation's environment laws work better for everyone by providing a full response to the Samuel Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Following a consultation of the members of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, it was decided that the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, initially scheduled from 19 - 30 June 2022 in Kazan, Russia, is postponed.
- November this year is the 50th anniversary of the UNSECO World Heritage Convention. Properties will have received a message inviting you to organize anniversary events and activities at World Heritage properties under the theme "The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation".
- Will be providing further Heritage advice on the Chalumbin Wind Farm project and on the adequacy of the latest version of the Public Environment Report provided by the proponent once received.

- The department has provided comments on the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) hub Research Plans, and we are working with the Cross Hub Protected Place Initiative on the NESP2 Protected Places Management Initiative Strategy 2021-26, identifying research opportunities in Australia's protected places including World Heritage properties. In the first instance, the Initiative focuses on the needs of protected places management, targeting research within National Parks, Australian Marine Parks, World Heritage Areas, listed heritage places, underwater cultural heritage, RAMSAR sites and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs). Will discuss with the Authority about future opportunities.
- Dr Fiona Fraser was permanently appointed as Australia's Threatened Species Commissioner in March 2022.

Comments

- Wording of the commitment to 'Indigenous heritage values as part of World Heritage' was Daintree, does that mean the Wet Tropics? Understand it means the Wet Tropics but will seek further clarification.
- Full response to the Samuel Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act - implementing everything, or a review of the recommendations? Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, the Minister for the Environment and Water wants to thoroughly review the document herself then consider how it could be implemented. There will be more information to come from the Minister's office.
- Clarification for Yellow Crazy Ant funding: commitment has been made but do need to go through the budget process. Internally we are getting processes ready, how we might deliver the program as well as streamlining so as soon as it is passed through parliament the program will be ready to go. Commonwealth government will need to provide confirmation to the Queensland Treasury to enable the State funding and the project to continue until Commonwealth funds are received.
- Previous Commonwealth government was going to name 20 priority places, is still happening? To confirm if this is still the case.

Action:

Shane Dagwell to send his update report to the Board, confirm and report back to the Board if there will be a naming of 20 Priority Places, and to seek clarification on a commitment to potential Indigenous Heritage values listings.

Jeffrey McAlister, Deputy Director General, Tourism, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
Eco Trail Projects update:

- Wangetti Trail: Approval for Cultural Heritage Management Agreement, Commonwealth government has approved the Wangetti South Trail (33km). Closer to hearing back from Traditional Owners and ready to sign the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). Difficulty with the commencement of construction and final detailed design approval through the DES, this is due to the Geotech work being more complicated than first expected (retaining walls, slopes, bridges). Add in the cost escalation in the construction sector, there is a few months delay in beginning construction. In the meantime, creating the trail opportunity, engaging the community, looking at customer experience, how ready the industry is and beginning identifying an operator for the program.
- Wallaman Falls: Was announced in 2018, there has been significant delays due to consulting with Traditional Owners and lockdowns. Project was due to be complete by 30 June 2022.
- Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail: Going through final draft received from consultants and adding in the lessons learnt from the Geotech issues from the Wangetti Trail. Initial costing is \$47 million to build plus \$8 million to operate (over 10 years) which is significant. More detailed consultation and analysis needs to occur with Traditional Owners, local businesses

and increase visitor economy before can justify investment at that level. Will recommend a staged progress for this project.

- Industry Reference Panel issued an Action Plan last year for tourism recovery. Final report from the Industry Reference Panel will be issued in a month's time that includes an adjacent strategy, that includes there is more that can be done with private landowners on areas of high natural amenity adjacent to Protected Areas and how to connect visitors into the Protected Areas. Queensland is falling behind in eco-tourism. Looking at pilot program that will work with the private sector.

Comments:

- What is the percentage of cost escalation for the Wangetti Trail? Quite significant but still working out exact figure. If had more detailed Geotech from the start, then would have had considered different options.
- Strong concerns that the Wallaman Falls Trail project Business Case was developed without any reference to the statutory framework over the World Heritage Area and that the Wet Tropics Management Authority was not fully consulted. QPWS was not fully consulted either. A detailed briefing to the Wet Tropics Management Authority would be appreciated.
- Was the viability assessment for the Wallaman Falls Trail project undertaken or being undertaken on the assumption that Wangetti Trail project is fully operational? They are not linked in any way, however cautious beginning Wallaman Falls Trail until more progress has been made with the Wangetti Trail project. Don't want to take on another full build of 120km plus trail until more progress is made with the Wangetti Trail.
- Has Jeffery connected with the new Tourism and Conservation Alliance? Yes, has met with them, already looking at proposals for private landowners in the Granite Belt.

Action:

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport to brief the Authority on the draft Business Case for the Wallaman Falls Trail project.

Sara De Vries (Acting Manager, World Heritage Unit, DES):
Queensland State Government changes:

- Refining DES proposal is that the World Heritage unit will be moving to EPP on 1 July 2022 and integrating with the Great Barrier Reef team.
- First Nations World Heritage Strategy is strongly progressing; the communications are currently being designed and will go to the Director General by 30 June 2022.
- Cape York Heritage Grant Assessment Program was approved by the Minister however not announced yet. Will build a partnership with the Commonwealth government about how we can implement the project.
- Gondwana property update: entire property was managed from New South Wales; change is occurring for Queensland to build capacity to manage the Queensland section of the property. Currently recruiting a 17-member Advisory Committee that includes scientific community, community sector, 2 positions for each of the Traditional Owner groups and an independent Chair. Does need to go to the Minister, cabinet and Premier for approval, could be 6-12 months away. This model has worked well for Riversleigh and K'gari.
- K'gari is in the process of doing climate change planning, is funded by Climate Change team and EPP. Looking at doing climate change planning for all properties.
- Riversleigh took longer to have their Advisory Committee approved, having their first meeting in August 2022.
- The new Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park Plan was announced at Parliament House on 7 June 2022 which is a milestone.

Comments:

- World Heritage Strategy has changed to a First Nations World Heritage Strategy? Yes, it was too broad with not enough clarity and information, therefore due to timing, it is focused on First Nations partnerships. Seeking support from Director General to develop internal policies and procedures about the relationship between World Heritage and the influence on on-ground management efforts.
- There is a public perception that World Heritage Areas are managed at a world class and best practice standard, however that is not something that we have any policies to guarantee that it is happening. Will continue to work with the Authority regarding this subject.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Queensland and Commonwealth Government department reports.

3.5 Advisory Committee reports to the Board

Director Dr Sally Driml provided an update from the Board's meeting with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) yesterday, Thursday 9 June 2022:

It was a positive and significant half-day joint meeting consisting of 3 parts:

- CCC business. New process that CCC business is tabled in the Board papers, after Board meeting, feedback is given to the CCC. CCC agreed to this process and will assist in improving communication.
- Member updates regarding issues arising in their area, will provide this information in the minutes.
- Communication between CCC and Board. Continue to have joint meetings where possible.

Comments:

- How does the Board want to respond to the CCC from yesterday's meeting? Will be included in the next Board papers, for the Board to respond at meeting 120.
- Acknowledgement to both Saskia and Matt's assistance for facilitating the joint meeting.

Action:

- CCC minutes from yesterday's meeting, including member updates, to be circulated to the Board.

Director Professor Stephen Williams provided directors with an update from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2022:

5 topics were discussed:

- Windfarms – paper on that later in the Board meeting.
- Looked at funding of science research in the region via the National Environment Science Program (NESP), discussed what topics to propose to NESP to fund. Stephen met with Michael Douglas who oversees the NESP hub and presented SACs ideas:
- Biodiversity climate bi-cultural monitoring.
 - Spatial prioritization for the Restoration Alliance.
 - Fire vulnerability (consistent with James's report earlier in the Board meeting).
 - Future research into the impact of extreme events on the World Heritage Area.
 - Projects on pathogens, weeds and mountain top plants.

- Biodiversity mapping that includes culturally important pieces that have bio-cultural value.
- Another meeting next week with Authority staff, Terrain NRM, Iain Gordon from NESP where the projects can be refined.
- Not sure what the approval process is within the NESP Hub.
- Restoration Alliance: discussed what science is needed to inform that, particularly the base science overlay of biodiversity value that can then be overlaid with other considerations such as pragmatic layers of community interest and costs.
- Considered nominating the uplands of the Wet Tropics as a threatened ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC). SAC members are supportive of the idea and will hold a workshop later in the year to move that forward.
- With Iain Gordon leaving the SAC and Stephen stepping into the Chair, there is an opportunity to seek new member/s to add further expertise. Considered the following expertise currently under-represented in the committee:
 - Fire ecologist
 - Water science – hydrology or biodiversity in streams
 - Social science

Comments:

- Is there a limit of the number of people that can be on the SAC? No, there was a review a few years ago, 12 members was mentioned. Currently have 6-8 members.
- The term of the current SAC is until May 2023.
- Various options including direct appointments endorsed by the board or an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. The Wet Tropics Management Authority can appoint a temporary/interim SAC member until May 2023.

Action:

- Tim Wong to recommend two temporary/interim members to the SAC until May 2023 (fire and water scientists), for Board endorsement and approval out of session.
- Stephen Williams will send a request to SAC members asking for recommendations for fire and water scientists with the expertise required to enhance the SAC.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the SAC and CCC reports.

3.6 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the Significant Correspondence.

Correspondence In:

21 March 2022	Email from the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor- General - seeking the Chair's views on an individual being considered for an award within the Order of Australia.
31 March 2022	Email invitation from Jumbun Ltd to the Chair to attend Jumbun Government Stakeholder meeting.
8 April 2022	Email from Martin Dallen, Assistant Director Heritage Projects Section, DAWE - Confirmed receipt of the Chair's letter regarding potential conflicts of interest, through the Commonwealth's Parliamentary channels as well.

11 April 2022	From Mr Josh Thomas, CEO, GBRMPA - Sharing of intellectual property relating to tour guide training programs.
14 April 2022	Copy of Letter from Jamie Merrick, Director General DES to Mr Andrew Metcalfe AO, Secretary DAWE - Concern at the lack of explicit reference to funding for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program in the Forward Estimates of the Federal Budget papers.
17 May 2022	Letter from James Barker, Assistant Secretary, Heritage Branch, DAWE - Seeking updated information on National Heritage management plans in preparation for the department's annual reporting by 9 June 2022.
26 May 2022	Email from Australia's Focal Point for World Heritage, DAWE - 50 th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention – invitation to organise our own celebrations that highlight the beauty of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and bring together the teams of innovative people around World Heritage to help manage, conserve, operate, work, and live on in the Area. Prepare an online form to notify planned events and to contribute to the major World Heritage exhibition on the UNESCO Headquarter fences in the autumn by 21 June 2022.
3 June 2022	Letter from the National Native Title Tribunal advising that the Eastern Kuku Yalanji 2021 National Parks Land Transfer ILUA Q12021/010 was registered on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Correspondence out:

25 March 2022	Letter to Mr Josh Thomas, CEO, GBRMPA - Sharing of intellectual property relating to tour guide training programs
30 March 2022	Letter to the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP and the Hon. Sussan Ley MP (Cc: Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Board of Directors) - Letter of thanks for appointment and formal advice regarding potential conflict of interest for any business decisions that may arise for Eastern Kuku Yalanji People and Country – from the Chair of the Authority.
5 April 2022	Response form to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General - Order of Australia Referee Response.
5 April 2022	Letter of support for a request for an extension for the Australian Heritage Grant – AHG81110 (i.e., the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Think Tank (RAPTT) project, auspiced by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, to develop and deliver a Cultural Values Management Plan for the Wet Tropics).
13 April 2022	To Board communicate contacts list – Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Communique 118.
26 April 2022	To Great Barrier Reef Foundation - Letter of Support - Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation Healing Country Grant Program Application.
20 May 2022	The Authority's submission to the Department of Environment and Science (DES) regarding the proposed changes to arise from the Refining DES process.
3 June 2022	The Hon Tanya Plibersek, Commonwealth Minister for Water and the Environment – congratulations on her appointment, introduction to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and invitation to meet to discuss key focus areas for the Authority.
6 June 2022	Senator Nita Green, Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef - congratulations on her appointment, introduction to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and invitation to meet to discuss key focus areas for the Authority.

6 June 2022	Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management - congratulations on his appointment, introduction to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and invitation to meet to discuss the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.
8 June 2022	Letter to the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP seeking support for Spectacled flying-fox research in the Wet Tropics.
8 June 2022	Letter to Lucy Graham, Director of CAFNEC, with the Board's response to the Environmental Defender's Office report on Flying Fox Roost Management Reform for Queensland.

Resolution

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

4.0 Strategic issues

4.1 Theme for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 State of Wet Tropics Reports

Ellen Weber spoke to Board Paper 4.1 and the proposal for the next two potential themes for the State of the Wet Tropics Reports (SoWT):

- Prudent to approve both recommendations to demonstrate results and achievements of the Wet Tropics Management Authority.
- Member of CCC brought to the Board's attention, at the joint meeting yesterday, that the theme based SoWT is specific and doesn't actually report on the state of the Wet Tropics overall. The CCC proposed that from time-to-time the Authority prepares and releases an analysis of the state of the Wet Tropics, similar to what is submitted to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Board discussed that perhaps a report like that is prepared every 5-6 years that can then support the IUCN reporting. There was a suggestion of a snapshot that is a publicly available brochure. If the State of the Wet Tropics Report was changed to 5-yearly then the legislation would need to be altered. The previous board has considered and endorsed extending the reporting requirements via legislation and have begun consultation with the Queensland government.

Action:

- Ellen Weber to propose at the next SAC meeting: what questions the Wet Tropics Management Authority could be asking that will inform and be incorporated into the planning of the 2022-2023 State of the Wet Tropics report with the theme of 'Threatened species and ecosystem recovery planning'.
- Ellen Weber to propose at the next SAC meeting: consideration for a report analysing the state of the Wet Tropics and the associated timing for the report amongst other reporting requirements.

Resolution

The Board:

- **approved** the 2022-2023 State of the Wet Tropics report theme as 'Threatened species and ecosystem recovery planning'.
- **approved** the 2023-2024 State of Wet Tropics report theme as 'Involvement of Rainforest Peoples in the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area' pending availability of additional resources and measurable progress of the Indigenous led refresh to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Regional Agreement

4.2 Business Case and Strategy for Action

Scott Buchanan, spoke to Board Paper 4.2.

- The next steps to progress the Business Case include Director Dr Sally Driml to complete a final review to refine an engaging narrative, then engage a professional writer/graphic designer to develop a glossy brochure.
- Advocacy will be critical to the success of the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Business Case:
 - Timeline – given the Commonwealth government's timing and budget reviews, the Wet Tropics Management Authority will need to have commitments by late November/December 2022 in anticipation for the May 2023 budget. Shane Dagwell confirmed this is a reasonable plan.
 - Stakeholder Analyses – identified who are partners, who are potential investors and who already having an existing relationship.

Comments:

- Approach seems it is based on loss of funding, is it worth turning it to the increased threat? Yes, that is what are turning the document into. Compared to the Great Barrier Reef endangered listing, the Wet Tropics is at the same level of risk along with the increased expectation to involve Traditional Custodians.
- Are we looking at the economic and social benefit of world class management of the World Heritage Area (return on investment)? Yes, the last Business Case was backward looking, this Business Case will be forward looking and not about the Wet Tropics Management Authority, rather it will be about the World Heritage Area.
- Need to increase stakeholders at the Commonwealth level, look at alignment with Olympic stakeholders, conservation stakeholders, CCC member stakeholders, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). Yes, there is still work to be done, the key messaging is being finalised.
- Director Robin Clark is happy to provide support in completing the document.
- Director Dr Sally Driml won't be requesting remuneration for assisting with the completion of the Business Case.
- Are there any reports, documents or studies that talk about the threat to Cultural values? Yes, talked about it at the Cultural Values Management Plan meeting last week. Yes, there are some documents that identify threats, but not at the specific levels. It needs to be included into the Business Case. Know that threats to natural values leads to threats to Cultural values and are seeing changes to cultural stories already.

Action:

- Shane Dagwell to confirm when the Commonwealth parliament is sitting in July 2022.
- Scott Buchanan to distribute the draft timeline with Board of Directors.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the advocacy strategy to progress a refined Business Case for increased funding to the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

4.3 Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Wet Tropics

Ellen Weber provided an update of relevant land restoration activities since last board meeting:

- Youth Round Table Forum and Film night – created an opportunity to discuss with young people what employment in a nature-based economy and what restoration enterprises would look like. This was an opportunity for the Authority to partner with Community-bred and Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI). Draft report received from this event that Wet Tropics Management Authority is still considering.
- Keith Speyers and Terrain NRM have been working on the joint restoration discussion paper, including consulting with key stakeholders, spoken to 20 of 25 identified stakeholders. Great feedback so far on the discussion paper, people loved the idea, think it is a great initiative. Next steps are to collate the feedback and refresh the discussion paper.
- Building trusted relationships – the Authority is seen as a key partner; Traditional Owner groups and community groups are coming to the Authority seeking partnerships. Wet Tropics Management Authority is being seen as a respected, valued and authentic partner.
- Suring up buy-in from critical sectors – local councils and First Nations organisations are all doing important work, the Authority needs to make sure that we are creating something coherent to them, so they can see the value proposition from their perspective, and how we can support each other.
- Arranging a meeting for the end of the month with key stakeholders (JCU, Terrain NRM, FNQROC), then take time to work through the feedback. Will then take the discussion to the broader stakeholder group in a timely manner.

Comments:

- Regarding the proposed governance arrangement, how diverse are the comments? Concerns have been raised that going to set up a new entity, not the intention, there are enough entities already. The core piece of this work is to set up an investment strategy as there are great organisations already doing this work, let's invest in the region. This is about investing in the region not the Wet Tropics Management Authority.
- Are the core stakeholder group agreeing about the proposed governance arrangement? Yes, grateful that the Wet Tropics Management Authority has taken on a leadership role in enabling the conversation and that partnered with Terrain NRM.

Action:

Ellen Weber to distribute the report once it is finalised to the Board.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the update to the landscape restoration initiatives in the Wet Tropics.

4.4 Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program Update

Lucy Karger spoke to Board Paper 4.4:

- Clarification from Shane Dagwell and Martin Dallen at DAWE that the announcement/commitment from the ALP is not yet formalised.
- Have to wait for the budget review in October, then perhaps a funding agreement by March 2023.
- Turning the 6-year plan into a 4-year plan
- As part of State funding the Yellow Crazy Ant project plan will have to be satisfactory to DAF (Biosecurity Qld).
- Will include 1 to 2 independent reviews of the program to ensure assessment of efficacy and efficiency.
- Program is tracking well.

- Benefit of 4 years of funding is that it takes the program past the next federal election. This means the election and the funding program are not aligned, which will benefit and expedite the funding process.
- There are 16 stages of treatment. Currently working on 41 sites. Of these sites 22% are in broadscale treatment and 73% have been surveyed and no Yellow Crazy Ants have been found.
- Infestation of Yellow Crazy Ants in Townsville presents a risk to Cairns.
- The Authority has sent assistance/support to Townsville to help mitigate that risk. Townsville does not currently have the appropriate resources, but the first step is understanding the scale and scope of the infestation.
- Working with the Townsville City Council and Invasive Species Council to establish a working group to assist with decision making to build the Townsville response, so when the funding arrives, the Yellow Crazy Ant program can start. The Authority is assisting to save them years of time and effort.

Comments

- Where is the Yellow Crazy Ant infestation in Townsville? Around the Billabong Sanctuary, this area looks like it is larger than Cairns' infestation. There are also infestations on JCU campus and north of the city. Initial advice to Townsville is that this will be a management program, rather than an eradication program.
- What is the critical timeline to obtain funding from the Queensland government? 21st June 2022, State funding is contingent on Commonwealth funds. We do have some contingency to continue operations, can be extended to December 2022 at this stage.

Action:

Lucy Karger to distribute the map of the Townsville Yellow Crazy Ant infestation and the graphs not presented to the Board.

Resolution

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

4.5 Rainforest Aboriginal People's Think Tank (RAPTT) Update

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez passed on apologies from Alicia Haines, not presenting and absent due to sorry business. Saskia spoke to Board Papers 4.5:

- The Wet Tropics Management Authority will provide in-kind support to RAPTT over 2 years as well as assisting with the costs, logistics and resources to hold the regional forums subject to the approval of funding via the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). QPWS will also contribute to the cost of the forums.
- GBRF have requested a face-to-face meeting on 21 June 2022 regarding potential funding.
- The 2021 RAP Regional Forum endorsed the RAPTT to seek new membership, hasn't occurred yet, this is a risk.
- Progressed the Australia Heritage grant for the Cultural Landscape Hub, agreement has been executed and received first payment. Steering committee is set up and looking for new membership for this group.
- Due to Wet Tropics Management Authority's cap, RAPTT cannot have a Wet Tropics Management Authority employee, looking at alternatives which will delay the process.

Comments

- How many people are involved with RAPTT? There is a large list, however only a few are attending. There are previous Authority board members involved. Looking at Expression of Interests (EOI) raised at the last forum for new members to join. However, RAPTT has been very focused on the funding submission and therefore has not been focussed on governance. New governance will be dictated by the requirements included in the proposed funding agreement.
- Is there anything RAPTT needs from the Authority regarding the face-to-face meeting with GBRF? The GBRF have asked for an attendees list and a location to hold the meeting.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT) update.

4.6 Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country

Chrissy Grant stepped out of the Chair and Dr Sally Driml stepped into the Chair for this item.

Tim Wong spoke to Board Paper 4.6:

- This will be the first of many discussions with the Board about the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country. The Board may not need to make decisions around the plan, rather deepening their understanding of the details and becoming familiar with the risks.
- Pink zone are freehold areas around Cow Bay, Shiptons Flat near Wujal Wugal and Rossville are significant interest for Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to return to Country.
- Eastern Kuku Yalanji have signed 12 Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), the Wet Tropics Management Authority has interest with 5 ILUAs.
- Co-operative Management Agreement (CMA) is a mechanism within the Wet Tropics Management Plan, where the Authority can reach an agreement with a party who has interest in the land but must have a net benefit for World Heritage management.
- Pink area negotiations were put on hold as Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) was focussed on the National Park hand back process.
- Unsure of extent of interest from Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to return to Country in Pink areas, already had one request at this stage.
- No current process, currently looking at a strategic/master/community planning process, included draft proposal presented to the Board in the Board Papers 119. Will need funding as well a partnership between Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Wet Tropics Management Authority.
- Joint meeting set up for next week. If agreed, Josh Paterson from Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Scott will take the proposal to the Queensland government to begin discussing financial and resource support for the proposal.
- Risks include frustration from Traditional Owners and barriers from both the Prescribe Body Corporate (PBC) and the Authority. Some Traditional Owners have already moved into freehold areas, not into the World Heritage Areas as yet. Therefore, the Authority does need to be part of that process.

Comments

- The aspirations of Traditional Owners to return to County will need to be incorporated into the local planning schemes. Moving the master plans into the local planning schemes will cost an additional \$500,000 approximately. If the master plan is done in tandem with the local planning schemes it will be an easier process, recommend that the local

governments are included in the process sooner rather than later. There has been early work completed with both Douglas and Cook councils.

- Consider increasing the funding request and include local councils/local planning schemes? If it does need to be parallel process, will definitely consider amongst other considerations, such as risks, constraints and resourcing.
- The Authority to draw on Director Robin Clark's experience and advice regarding the body of work required to incorporate the master plan into local planning schemes.
- Need to consider what does Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) want. JYAC has expressed that it doesn't want it to be about providing development approvals and that people do need to be clear about who is responsible at each step.
- There are many models and processes to consider including permanent use verses temporary use. Planning approvals for temporary use tend to be easier to work through. Perhaps a staged approach.

Action:

Robin Clark to prepare a written advice to the Authority about what the further body of work would be regarding including local government and local planning schemes into the master plan.

Resolution

The Board

- **noted** the request from Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) in October 2021 for the Wet Tropics Management Authority to support Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples return to Country in the Pink Zone.
- **noted** progress on this initiative and key risks to be managed, including a draft joint proposal with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) to seek funding for master planning.

4.7 Report back on involving youth on the Board

Chrissy Grant returned as Chair

Robin Clark, Rebecca Lagerroth, and Matt Cheetham provided an update on actions to date:

- Working group was formed and met on 5 May 2022.
- Opportunity of young people to gain experience from the Wet Tropics Management Authority to launch them into other Board responsibilities, politics, United Nations, UNESCO and/or managing World Heritage properties around the world.
- Youth Affairs Network Queensland (YANQ) is already working in this space.
- Considering different streams (e.g., academic, grassroots, rangers, operations etc.), models (mentoring, mirror board) and resource implications, however, do need wait to see what feedback is provided to determine if there is any interest.
- When the Authority develops a youth program, it will be beneficial if a youth impact strategy is also developed to evaluate the success of youth program. It would be used to determine and monitor if the program has achieved its outcomes and if it was beneficial for the participants including the Authority.
- Considering as part of each consultation process for policies and plans prepared by the Authority, actively seek feedback, opinions, and views of youth/young people. It is important that the Authority is capturing the feedback and opinions of the next generation about the management and future of the World Heritage Area.

- At the Youth Round Table Forum held in April, have identified standout potential candidates that may agree to participate in a youth/young people's working group to assist with the 2023 Youth Engagement Strategy.

Comments

- The CCC did discuss encouraging and appointing a youth/young person member. However, nothing further has been done at this stage. Consider encouraging at the next Expression of Interest (EOI) and/or nominating a dedicated position to youth/young person. There are opportunities when the terms of reference are completed to be more prescriptive to include youth/young people for both the CCC and SAC.
- Consider that the definition of youth is 12 to 25 years old, definition of young is 20 to 30 years old. International understanding is youth is to 35 years old. Will consider a name that reflects what the Authority wants to develop and achieve.
- Is being part of the Board just one part of the wider youth/young people's program? Yes, Matt Cheetham is reviewing the Youth Engagement Strategy and young people being involved in the Board is just one piece of that including creating pathways. Current strategy is until 2022, will begin working on the 2023 strategy shortly.
- Respondents at the Youth Round Table Forum provided feedback that the only way to get into environment work is to a lot of work for free for years.

Resolution

The Board *noted* advice from the working group and young people on what young people's involvement on the Board might look like in the future.

4.8 19th Cassowary Awards update

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez spoke to Board Paper 4.8:

- Hoping to include potential media opportunities/package to entice attendance.
- So far received 9 nominations across 4 categories. There is a total of 9 categories.
- Nominations close on 1 July 2022, will do more push on social media.
- 6 sponsors have been secured for 6 of the 9 categories:
 - QPWS.
 - Skyrail Rainforest Cableway.
 - Cairns Regional Council.
 - Terrain NRM.
 - Queensland Water and Landcare.
 - Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI) – Congratulations to Matt Cheetham for getting YETI on board.
- Gold sponsorship looking for 2 sponsors.
- Following up other potential sponsors, deadline was Friday 10 June 2022.

Comments

- How much is the sponsorship? Category sponsorship is \$2,500, Gold sponsorship is \$3,500.
- Has the Authority contacted Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) to assist with the call out of nominations? Yes.

Action:

- The Board to promote the awards across their networks to support the attraction of a strong pool of nominees.
- Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez to send the sponsorship prospectus to Professor Stephen Williams to forward and share with JCU

Resolution

The Board *noted* progress to date for the 19th Cassowary Awards and key dates for the nomination process.

4.9 Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021-2031 implementation update

Sarah Jordan spoke to Board Paper 4.9:

- There has been significant progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021-2031 following its launch in September 2021.
- Interagency Working Group for Ecotourism are currently actioning:
 - Dept Tourism, Innovation and Sport final Action Plan for Tourism Recovery.
 - QPWS Mountain Biking Operational Policy.
 - Dept Tourism, Innovation and Sport Relationship Guide.
- Member of the steering committee for TNQ First Nations Tourism Action Plan, community workshops are underway.
- Progressing the presentation of the World Heritage Area in partnership with QPWS, specifically entry signs and totems for all properties across Queensland. Also undertaking a review of existing Wet Tropics WHA signage.
- Progressing the 2022-2023 Roadshow and Ambassador program delivery, recruiting ambassadors.
- Progressing the Evolve Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program, contract awarded and mystery tours planned. Tours will occur on QPWS estates (have been consulted), so will be happy to share the findings with QPWS. Also planned to hold stakeholder meetings.
- Results from what tourism operators want to see from the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program (survey):
 - Agreed base level of knowledge to operate in World Heritage Areas.
 - Yearly Refresher.
 - One-off masterclasses.
 - Tourism operators are willing to pay for field schools.
 - World Heritage Area presentation, conservation research, threats and best practice.
 - Accreditation.
- Progressing collaborative planning for visitor sites, specifically for Crater Lakes National Park including thematic strategies and Traditional Owner engagement.

Comments

- Is the signage UNESCO signage? No more advisory signage, such as boundary signage, it does have a compliance and awareness raising purpose.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority is contributing \$10,000 to QPWS to support signage at Crater Lake National Park (new World Heritage Area signage).
- The opportunity of the Interagency Working Group for Ecotourism is to take sustainable tourism to the State level. Also, to look at the Tourism Recovery Action Plan and where it was not consistent with World Heritage Area requirements. The Tourism Recovery Action

Plan is seeking Government approval, however the working group identified significant gaps in the policy that were distributed for feedback.

- Looking at the DTIS engagement program, have the new First Nations Tourism Council and other indigenous tourism groups been engaged and involved in developing that program? Yes, will be engaging and creating a formal arrangement.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update of the implementation of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021–2031.

4.10 Forming a Board Position on Wind Farms

Tim Wong spoke to Board Papers 4.10:

- Queensland government has set a 50% renewable target by 2030 which means there is an additional 47GW required.
- There is 50+ solar farms and 30+ wind farms planned.
- Both the Kaban and Chalumbin windfarms are outside the World Heritage Area, however they are within 500-600m of the boundary, including a proposed substation. Chalumbin shares 22km boundary with the World Heritage Area.
- Concern about the possible impacts on the values of the World Heritage Area including habitat clearing for various threatened species, aerial species, fragmentation of areas, fire incursions, erosion, weed and pest animal spread.
- The Authority was contacted 18 months ago by the Commonwealth government and has been involved since, have been framed as a trusted advisor as World Heritage Area managers especially in the impact assessment processes.
- The Authority has engaged with many parties including Powerlink, Cleanco Queensland, Clean Energy Council, SARA, Terrain NRM to share concerns.

Comments

- Has the Public Environment Report been released? Yes, a draft has been released, and the Commonwealth government has sent it to the Authority to do an adequacy review.
- Has the Authority met with Queensland State Development? Yes, however, only to answer the specific questions they have. State Development's remaining concerns have been regarding erosion, sediment control and how infrastructure goes from port up to site. The most effective conversation with State Development was around fire risk. There is a fire management plan however only focusses on infrastructure and human safety, does not include areas between the windfarm and the World Heritage Area (property owner's responsibility).
- The SAC's comments are that there are 2 views to consider:
 - Direct impacts on the habitat/ecosystem at the location of the windfarms.
 - Potential impacts the windfarm will have on being just outside the World Heritage Area.
- The SAC agreed that the biggest threat was fire.
- The Authority continues to be a trusted advisor as well as support our partners to take an advocacy approach (The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), Terrain NRM etc.). CAFNEC will be releasing a statement in the coming week.
- With the changes to the Commonwealth government, changes to the departments and potential changes to the EPBC Act (Samuels Review), will there be changes to the decision-making processes for these types of developments particularly for World Heritage Areas? It is hard to know at this stage, it is very early in the government's term,

however given announcements there may be greater consideration and at the same time the Commonwealth government is committed to increased renewables. There may be an internal Commonwealth government conflict between renewables and biodiversity conservation.

- Concerns that the aesthetic value of the World Heritage Areas is preserved. Agreed and already proposed that to the Commonwealth government that they will need to ensure the windfarms are not seen from marked World Heritage Area visitor areas and walking tracks, for example at the Wallaman Falls viewpoint and Misty Mountains viewpoint.
- The Board does support taking a stronger approach to publicly state its position.

Action:

The Board will finalise a written statement of its position on windfarms out of session.

Resolution

- The Board **endorsed** the Wet Tropics Management Authority's approach to the issue of windfarms.
- The Board **endorsed** a Board position on windfarms

5.0 Other Business

5.1 Board Communique

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Communique for Meeting 119.

5.2 Other business

Acknowledgement of Rebecca Lagerroth, Principal Advisor:

- Heartfelt thank you for all your support and service over the last 7 years, you will be truly missed from the Authority.
- The ED and Board acknowledge the improvements to the systems and protocols to support the Authority and the Board ensuring efficiencies and effectiveness in our processes.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50th Anniversary on 16th November 2022:

- Theme "The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation"
- Celebration runs all year, not just in November
- Opportunity as there is 2 World Heritage Areas next to each other, which is unique in the world
- Perhaps partner with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), propose a collaborative project to see if they are interested.
- Consider an opportunity to bring Traditional Owners of land and sea together, the joining of land and sea Country.
- Josh Thomas the Chief Executive Officer of GBRMPA is open to working with the Authority on land and sea matters particularly through a tourism prism.
- Opportunity to create a climate change angle of threats across both land and sea Country. Climate change is the biggest threat to World Heritage Areas in the next 50 years.
- Opportunity to raise the profile that the Wet Tropics is facing climate change threats as well.

- Not sure if Government departments will be celebrating UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50th Anniversary
- Will need to inform UNESCO of any events or announcements by 21st June 2022.

Action:

- Wet Tropics Management Authority to prepare a proposal to discuss with Josh Thomas the Chief Executive Officer of GBRMPA to celebrate UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50th Anniversary and present the proposal to the Board at meeting #120.
- Saskia to inform the Board if the DES World Heritage Unit will be conducting an event to celebrate UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50th Anniversary.
- James Newman to inform the Board if QPWS will be conducting an event to celebrate UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50th Anniversary

Meeting Close

Board Meeting 119 closed at 4.30pm.

Next meeting will be held on 25-26 August 2022

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
26/08/2022