

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

James Barker	Assistant Secretary, Heritage Branch, DCCEEW
Erin Dampney	Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
Martin Dallen	Assistant Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
Shane Dagwell	Heritage Officer, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
Chris Kinnaird	Acting Regional Director, Northern Parks and Forest, QPWS&P
Lyn Wallace	Manager, World Heritage, OGBRWH, DES

WTMA Officers

Julie Colman	Acting Principal Advisor
Sean McNamara	Principal Advisor
Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Tim Wong	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ellen Weber	Senior Scientist, Climate Initiatives
Alicia Haines	Acting Principal Project Officer
Tamara Siemionow	Senior Project Officer, Tourism

Other

Kylie McQuie	HR Dynamics (minute taker)
Parramatta State School	Students and teachers

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 acknowledged the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples of the Wet Tropics region as the traditional custodians of this landscape, as well as acknowledged the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples participating in the meeting. The Chair paid her respects to their Elders and her own Elders of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.

The Chair welcomed Directors, observers, current and new staff to the meeting both in person and online. James Barker, Ellen Dampney and Martin Dallen from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW) were welcomed and appreciated for being in person at the meeting.

The Chair noted the appointment process for a Rainforest Aboriginal male Director was still in progress however is in the final stages.

A delegation from Parramatta State School will join the meeting to provide a presentation and stay to have lunch with the Board.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Jeffrey McAlister	Deputy Director General, Tourism and Major Events, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS).
Tim Hartz	Projects Executive Director, Tourism Infrastructure & Investment, Department of Tourism, Innovation & Sport Tourism and Major Events, DTIS
Elisa Nichols	Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage (OGBRWH), DES
Angela Siggery	Director World Heritage, OGBRWH, DES
Matthew Cheetham	Senior Project Officer, Communications and Engagement, Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)

1.3. Conflicts of Interest

None recorded

2. Previous Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Previous Minutes Board Meeting 120

Required amendment: Discussion on windfarms – actions arising to be included in past minutes:

- Board's statement on windfarms to be placed on the Wet Tropics Management Authority's website; and
- Write to ministers regarding the Board's statement on windfarms – writing to ministers wasn't included in the actions arising.

Resolution

The Board **approves** the minutes for Board meeting 120

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
2	113	Communications Strategy	Currently under review, a draft will be provided to the Board for their input at meeting 122 in early 2023.
4	Extraordinary Meeting	Develop a checklist for WTMA to guide ethical funding	Draft discussion paper has been prepared by Dr Sally Driml, invited a working group from CCC. Will circulate to the CCC for their input prior to the Joint SAC and CCC meeting in November 2022.
5	118	Director Training	Delayed due to the appointment of Rainforest Aboriginal male Director. New Principal Advisor to prepare Director Training in readiness for appointment of the new Director.

No	Meeting	Agenda Item / Action	Comments
7	118	Look at funding opportunities to support Youth involvement on the Board	Work has been delayed until after the 19 th Cassowary Awards. Youth Round Table final report (to be finalised today) to assist and inform progress. Sub-committee to meet to progress this action.
9	119	SAC to develop relationship with Whitsundays Climate Change Innovation Hub Scientific Advisory Committee	SAC to be consulted at next meeting in November 2022. To be added to the SAC agenda.
10	119	DCCEEW naming of 20 Priority Places	Will be spoken about today in the Commonwealth Department Report item 3.5
15	119	Questions that will inform and be incorporated into the planning of the 2022-2023 State of the Wet Tropics report.	SAC to be consulted at next meeting in November 2022. To be added to the SAC agenda.
18	119	Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Wet Tropics	Report to be distributed when finalised. Youth Round Table Report will be complete 7 October 2022. This report will inform both youth involvement on the Board and the Youth Engagement Strategy.
23	119	UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50 th Anniversary	WTMA has met with both DES and GBRMPA. Currently looking at options including social media and media announcements, currently no event is planned. There will be Commonwealth event in Canberra on 16 November 2022.
25	120	Board's position statement on windfarms	Board's position statement on windfarms to be provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water ○ The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy ○ Minister Meaghan Scanlon, Dept Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs ○ Minister Mick de Brenni, Dept Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and for Public Works and Procurement.
26	120	Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum	To be spoken about today in item 4.4.

No	Meeting	Agenda Item / Action	Comments
27	120	Youth employment opportunities and pathways in QPWS&P	Contact James Newman Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forest, QPWS&P to discuss as part of Youth involvement on the Board and Youth Engagement Strategy.
28	120	2023 Board Meeting dates	To be determined out of session prior to 31 December 2022.
29	119	Board Priorities	To be placed on the WTMA website.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the completed actions and **updated** the actions arising.

3. Reports

3.1 Chair's Report

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

- The finalisation of Scott Buchanan's performance agreement.
- Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) has changed the executive team to have two (2) co-chairs and two (2) deputy co-chairs – to attend to the natural, cultural and Indigenous cultural values across the World Heritage values.
- Progress of the Australian World Heritage Forum, three (3) day meeting in Canberra on 16-18 November 2022. The Wet Tropics Management Authority will be presenting at the forum. Will report back on the Cultural Values Workshop. There will be a celebration on 16 November 2022 for the 50th Anniversary UNESCO World Heritage Convention.
- From the UNESCO World Heritage Leadership Forum discussions around youth, have spoken to Phoebe Kinley, Principal Project Officer about how we can recognise people in communities and their volunteer work. The group have also asked us to send them a media package to be able to put on their own social media. This will enhance and promote the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in managing and conserving the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs).

The Chair attended various meetings including:

- Paula Perrett, Assistant Secretary, Reef Policy and International Heritage Branch, DCCEEW. Paula is the Australia representative on the UNESCO World Heritage Working Group on Climate Change that commenced at the 2021 General Assembly.
- James Barker, Assistant Secretary, Heritage Branch, DCCEEW, on 19 September 2022, about recognition of Indigenous Cultural Values a part of the World Heritage listing.
- Attended Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) Cultural Values Workshop looking at:
 - The model that will work for the Australian Indigenous Advisory Network (AIAN). The previous body – the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network (AWHIN) - was established in 2000 with the last meeting held in 2014. On 16 November 2022 Indigenous representatives for various World Heritage properties will attend a workshop in Canberra to discuss a model moving forward.

- how to recognise Indigenous Cultural Heritage Values in that aren't currently in the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) statement of Australian World Heritage properties. Solution must be workable not only in Australia but other countries around the globe.
- Attended the UNESCO World Heritage Leadership Forum in Norway facilitated by International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), which is one of three (3) advisory bodies to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Approximately 65 participants from around the world attended, with the focus for site managers to build capacity and use the developed toolkits especially when there isn't an authority. Specific meetings included:
 - Met and had one-on-one session with the Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre Lazare Eloundou Assomo and the International President of ICCROM Dr Webber Ndoro. Dr Webber Ndoro will be visiting Australia particularly Uluru and suggested he also visit the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
 - Also met with the International President of International Council of Monuments and Site (ICOMOS) Teresa Patricio who will work with the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH) and Tim Badman Director of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Heritage Programme on cultural nominations for World Heritage status.
 - Attended UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 in Mexico. Disappointed with the outcome of the conference due to the lack of recognition of Indigenous People's Culture over 1,000s of generations, but were recognising the emerging arts such as hip-hop dance and song. There was criticism that culture was not included in the Sustainable Development Goals. A positive outcome was the work that has been done across the Pacific, with Australia and New Zealand helping to facilitate the development of a consistent overall policy strategy for considering culture that individual countries in the Pacific could use to develop their own policies and legislation. This overall policy strategy included intellectual property, copyright, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Eighteen island countries across the Pacific signed the overall policy strategy but this was not included in the final declaration of the conference.

During lunch at Board meeting 121, students from Paramatta State School provided a presentation to the Board on the citizen science project they have been completing in collaboration with the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. In recognition of the hard work and commitment to both teaching staff and students, the Chair presented a copy of the book: A Heritage of Trees with Chair's inscription. The inscription read:

"Presented to the Parramatta State School, Cairns in appreciation of their commitment to the teaching staff and their fostering student's interest in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM Program) which is a broad term used to group together these academic disciplines. May the results of the STEM Program reap rewards for their inquisitive and curious minds to grow into some interesting and innovative work in the future.

*Regards,
Chrissy Grant,
Chair, Wet Tropics Management Authority Board of Management
7 October 2022"*

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 update:
 - Appointment of Sean McNamara as Principal Advisor. Thank you to Chrissy Grant and Rebecca Lagerroth for their support during that process.
 - Ongoing processing and approval of multiple temporary to permanent conversions in the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP) as funding becomes available. Kate Thomas, Jochem Van Der Reijden, Steve Brewer and Gareth Humphries have been converted to permanent employment status. The permanent appointment of Lesley Davis to the AO4 Administration Officer position is in process.
 - Contractor Wes Moller is ending his contract; he is currently the Wet Tropics Management Authority's sugar industry liaison. He has been instrumental in facilitating the sugar industry sharing data which has enabled the Yellow Crazy Ant team to identify at-risk sugar areas. The relationship with the sugar industry is well established and will continue to be strong, thanks to Wes.
 - Long Service Leave and Annual Leave:
 - Scott Buchanan: Leave from end November to early March 2023 – position is being advertised.
 - Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez: leave from mid-November to end January 2023 – position is being advertised.
 - Lucy Karger: leave end November to mid-January 2023 – position is being advertised.
 - Jochem van der Reijden: leave end November to mid-January 2023 – position is being advertised.
 - This is a significant amount of the leadership team on leave; therefore, arrangements are being put in place, positions are being advertised early and widely to enable handover.
 - Last day of Natalia Dusanovic the intern from Aurora Foundation today. Her internship finished four (4) weeks ago and was then put on a short-term contract to finalise the Youth Round Table report.
- Australian Heritage Grants Program has been advertised. Submission closing date is 7 November 2022 with \$5.34 million in total available. Wet Tropics Management Authority has put ideas together and will be working with partners to progress the ideas.
 - One idea is a submission for the Knowledge Hub for the Wet Tropics Tour Guide program. Looking at potentially working with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and Tourism Tropics North Queensland (TTNQ) to partner this submission.
 - Another idea is a submission for fire vulnerability assessment from RAPTT, will talk to Chris Kinnaird and Lee Harris (QPWS&P) who are preparing the fire guidelines program for the Wet Tropics and how those two (2) activities integrate.
 - Another potential proposal is to review signage across the World Heritage Area, potentially from a Queensland wide perspective, to get consistent and contemporary signage.
- Business Case: has been finalised. A printable version of the brochure has come through today.
- Scott and Chrissy continue to seek meetings with Ministers. Chrissy continues to seek a meeting with the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water on reef matters but will also talk about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- Scott met with Sarah Burt Senior Advisor to Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Positive discussion about the business case and informed about the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).
- There has been limited communication from the new Commonwealth Ministers to enable the scheduling of face-to-face meetings.

- Chrissy has been in communication with Paula Perrett, Assistant Secretary, Reef Policy and International Heritage Branch, DCCEEW who is a member of the Indigenous working group on the reef and also the Australian delegate for Climate Change and World Heritage.
 - Paula is heading to Paris as the Australian delegate for Climate Change and World Heritage.
 - The Wet Tropics Management Authority provided information to Paula including a summary of the work of Professor Stephen Williams, information about the Restoration Alliance, the Climate Adaptation Plan and the Board's position statement on windfarms.
 - Paula appreciated being provided this information to discuss on the world stage.
- Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country: since the last Board meeting, Scott met Josh Patterson the General Manager of Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation and Jamie Merrick Director-General of DES, Department of State Development and Planning teams of both Douglas Shire Council and Cook Shire Council. This matter has a number of agencies with an interest, with the challenge of how to bring the agencies together to support funding the program.
- Windfarms: Continues to be an ongoing issue. The team has met with the developers for Chalumbin with their potential partners Copenhagen Investment Projects.
 - They reached out wanting to do workshops to discuss how they can refine their Public Environment Report and clarify Wet Tropics Management Authority's concern.
 - It was explained that the Wet Tropics Management Authority is not the decision maker, it can only deliver the concerns about the impact on the World Heritage area for the assessments.
 - Requested they review their research and data and respond to the Wet Tropics Management Authority's concerns through the Public Environment Report.
- Yellow Crazy Ant Funding: waiting for Commonwealth government budget.
 - The Queensland government will not release its funds until the Commonwealth has released its funds.
 - Even though the Commonwealth budget is soon, it may take some time to get that funding agreement in place.
 - There was a contingency on funding, however, the YCEAP have been operating at full steam ahead as we know the money is coming. A 4-year YCAEP project plan has been provided the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, with which they are satisfied with.
- Wangetti Trail: there won't be a detailed update today due to the apology from Jeffrey McAlister, Deputy Director General, Tourism and Major Events, DTIS.
 - Scott participated in the Gateway review, which recommended that a cost-benefit analysis should be completed.
 - Concerns have been raised that Traditional Owners have been in discussions about this project for approximately 3 years with promises made that they will benefit from this project.
 - Further update will be provided out of session by DTIS.
- Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail: There have been continued discussions with Traditional Owners.
- Speaking Opportunities:
 - Invited to lecture for Professor Stephen Williams at James Cook University (JCU) for Masters major Global Change Biology on 18 October 2022. Will be discussing climate resilience; challenges we are facing and the actions we are taking.
 - Invited to participate on an expert panel as well as present at the Climate Change Forum hosted by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and University of Queensland on 29 October 2022.
 - Invitation to speak at the '2030 and Beyond' Forum hosted by the National Environmental Science Program's (NESP) Climate Systems Hub and the NSW Government's Adapt NSW on 1 November 2022.
- Acknowledged James Barker, Ellen Dampney and Martin Dallen from DCCEEW for their visit to Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Thanked the Managers Saskia, Lucy and Tim for supporting their visit, along with Sean and Julie for arranging the logistics.

Actions:

- Send a letter from the Chair to Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry about the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) issue.
- Circulate the printable version of the Business Case brochure to the Board of Directors
- Send a letter from the Chair to Minister Meaghan Scanlon, Dept Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs regarding early release of Yellow Crazy Ant funding.
- Send invitation to Climate Change Forum hosted by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and University of Queensland on 29 October 2022 to Dr Sally Driml/Directors

Resolution

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

3.3 Directors' Issues***The Directors provided the following updates:******Dr Sally Driml:***

Nothing to report

Ms Ailsa Lively:

Attending Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Think Tank (RAPTT) meetings for the organising of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum in October. The final meeting is next week.

The first meeting for the Australian Heritage Grants Cultural Landscapes Steering Committee will hopefully be held in November, however there are difficulties progressing the project. Consideration is being given to inviting other people as members to that group.

The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Think Tank (RAPTT) have provided a submission to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, with the assistance of Wet Tropics Management Authority, for funding for a proposed new governance framework. Theresa Fyffe, Executive Director Projects and Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Foundation has responded that any considerations for partnerships or funding is on hold until February 2023 due to staffing constraints.

Professor Stephen Williams:

Teaching a new Masters major at James Cook University (JCU) specifically on Global Change Biology, with the intent to provide students with climate change knowledge, including climate change adaptation with an emphasis on potential solutions as well as impacts. Scott has been invited to provide a lecture. As part of the course, a field day regarding climate change and fire was held, with Chris Roach from QPWS&P supporting.

Scientific papers written on the declining bird populations in the Wet Tropics have been released. Scientific paper on the decline of ringtail possums has been formally accepted and can be quoted as a published paper.

Ms Robin Clark:

Nothing to report

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Director's reports.

3.4 Queensland Department reports

Lyn Wallace – Manager, World Heritage, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, Department of Environment and Science (DES) provided the following update to Directors:

- K’gari:
 - 30th Anniversary of its World Heritage listing this year, event will be held in December 2022.
 - Climate Adaptation Planning in partnership with the CSIRO and Butchulla people. That project is rolling out, with an extended time period to ensure input from Butchulla people.
- Gondwana:
 - State of Conservation Report update following the fires, is due in December 2022. Commonwealth and NSW Government are also contributing to this report.
 - Working on progressing appointments to the Queensland Advisory Committee, will take another 6 months until it is finalised.
- Riversleigh: working with the University of NSW to move a boulder containing a mammal fossil into the visitor area because the visitor area doesn’t currently have a mammal fossil on display.
- Quandamooka (Nomination): the corporation has had a change of CEO.
- Cape York Peninsula (Nomination):
 - Both the Commonwealth and Queensland governments have matching election commitments.
 - Looking at principles and progressing nominations, still in the very early stages at the moment.
- First Nations Heritage Strategy is still waiting for Ministerial approval and release.
- Lyn will be on Long Service Leave from December 2022 until June 2023.

Chris Kinnaird – Acting Regional Director, Northern Parks and Forest, QPWS&P provided the following update to Directors:

- Human resources update:
 - There are ongoing challenges attracting and retaining employees, with many vacant positions and acting roles. This is creating some fatigue in terms of recruitment and requests to join panels, with approximately 20-30 requests for recruitment each week to fill positions.
 - Leadership team update:
 - Chris Kinnaird will continue as Acting Regional Director for the Northern Region until end of 2022
 - Alison Webb the Regional Director for the Northern Region will be in Asset Services until January 2022
 - Andrew Millard has been extended in the Performance and Improvement Team until mid-2023
 - There are a few new senior rangers coming through as well.
- Partnership Agreement: Annual Report is almost ready to go to Deputy-Director General for approval. Thank you to Scott for feedback, currently being incorporated into the final draft.
- Implementation Plan for the Climate Change for Fire Strategy: currently working on a draft, and a person has been engaged to progress the work and ensure that it is correlated to the Climate Change Strategy. There is a Fire Referral Group whose responsibility is to assess fire proposals and strategies. The terms of reference for this group have been re-aligned to ensure fire proposals and strategies are looked at through a climate change lens, and to ensure that there is First Nations input into the fire proposals and strategies. The Wet Tropics Management Authority will have a standing invitation to sit on the Fire Referral Group’s panel.
- The Wallaman Falls Girringun National Park capital works project (campground, car parks, visitor centre, walks): The site needs to cope with increasing visitor numbers. Funding of a couple of million

dollars has been approved for the upgrades, and the Principal Ranger for Coastal Tropics is working with QPWS&P and 25 Warrgamaygan people to conduct consultations for the upgrade planning.

- Large compliance works are progressing.

Resolution

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

3.5 Commonwealth Government department reports

James Barker – Assistant Secretary, Heritage Branch, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) provided the following update to Directors:

Senior Staffing

- David Fredericks has come across in the Machinery of Government changes from the former Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to head up the new Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Prior to his DISER role, David was Secretary of the former Department of the Environment and Energy in 2019.
- James Larsen returned as Deputy Secretary after leading our international engagement with the World Heritage Committee in relation to the Great Barrier Reef. James' group includes the Heritage, Reef and Ocean Division, as well as Biodiversity Conservation Division, Environmental Approvals Division and Parks Australia.
- Dean Knudson has returned to the department after 18 months with the NSW Government. Dean's group is responsible for national environmental and First Nations heritage protection reforms and establishing the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Katrina Maguire has been appointed as Division Head for Heritage, Reef and Oceans, as the former Division Head, Simon Banks has moved over to take up the role of Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Katrina has moved over from the climate change area of the department where she most recently led on Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy.

Election commitments

- We are expecting announcements to be made at the release of the Budget on the way forward for the Australian Government's election commitments including funding for the Yellow Crazy Ants Eradication Program election commitment, and the inclusion of First Nations cultural values to existing National and World Heritage listings.

Indigenous Reform - Modernisation of Cultural Heritage Protections

- At the September 2022 Australian Heritage Council meeting, AHC Indigenous Expert Jamie Lowe and First Nations Heritage, Wildlife and Planning Division Head Melissa McEwan provided an update to the Council on the development of an Options Paper on modernisation of cultural heritage protections. The Options Paper is a step towards delivering the Australian Government's commitment to modernise and provide standalone First Nations heritage legislation and put First Nations at the centre of Indigenous Heritage planning. It is anticipated that an options paper will be made available for comment in coming months.

Call for National and Commonwealth Heritage List Nominations 2023–24

- The next round of National and Commonwealth Heritage List nominations is expected to open in late October/early November and will remain open until 18 January. The nominations will be presented to the Australian Heritage Council at the March 2023 meeting who will then advise the Minister of their proposed priority assessment list.

Australian Heritage Strategy review

- The Australian Heritage Review will now result in the drafting of a new 10-year strategy to reflect the Australian Government commitments around enhancing environmental and Indigenous heritage protections. It is anticipated that a draft will be ready for public consultation early next year.

Australian Heritage Grants

- Round 5 of the \$5.3 million Australian Heritage Grants is open for applications, with amounts between \$25,000 and \$400,000 available to successful applicants. The round will close on 7 November 2022.

Indigenous Culture and Intellectual Property

- The department is currently working with Terri Jenke and Co to develop an Indigenous Culture and Intellectual Property protocol and to identify gaps in legislation and investigate the potential to amend legislation to increase protection.

World Heritage Forum

- Planning for the World Heritage Forum for 16–18 November, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, is well underway. World Heritage property managers and stakeholders are invited from across Australia and the Pacific region.
- The Heritage Branch is working with Minister Plibersek's office on arrangements to launch the forum on the evening of 16 November 2022 at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Cape York

- Both the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have election commitments to progress World Heritage listing of Cape York Peninsula. Together with Qld DES, we are in the process of planning site visits to Cape York in November to meet with First Nations peoples and other stakeholders to discuss a path forward for heritage listings on the Cape.

Murujuga

- In early September, Heritage Branch officers travelled to Murujuga in Western Australia to meet with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC), and to spend some time on Country to learn about this cultural landscape and its interactions with Industry.
- The Murujuga World Heritage nomination dossier is on track to be submitted to UNESCO by 1 February 2023. The department will support MAC to progress a cooperative management agreement to formalise the First Nations-led work on the Burrup Peninsula. The agreement will also protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

Climate Change Report and Toolkit

- The Minister is still to release the climate change report and toolkit developed in collaboration with CSIRO.

State of conservation reporting

- The Heritage Branch are working with NSW and Queensland colleagues to prepare State Party reports on the state of conservation on the Greater Blue Mountains and Gondwana Rainforests, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. Both reports are due to be sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2022.

Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context

- UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee have issued new guidance for assessing impacts from projects that could potentially affect the planet's most precious heritage places. The publication is available online at on the UNESCO website at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/>.

NESP

- The National Environmental Science Program has several projects underway that are focused on or relevant to World Heritage Areas including in Ningaloo, Kakadu, The Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics and K'gari.

Resolution

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

3.6 Advisory Committee reports to the Board

Director Dr Sally Driml provided an update from the Community Consultative Committee (CCC):

- The CCA made a commitment to provide a written report to the Board, which was circulated prior to the Board meeting.
- The CCC met on 2 September 2022.
- Since that meeting Alan Gillanders (Alan's Wildlife Tours, Yungaburra) has resigned from the CCC. It is not recommended to replace Alan at this time, as the process for renewing the CCC will begin early in 2023.
- Multiple topics raised by CCC for the Board to consider:
 - The CCC expressed confusion about when the Wet Tropics Management Authority will or won't provide advice to the Queensland government.
 - The Board will provide advice in the manner that it thinks appropriate in terms of the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) of any particular issue.
 - Flying Fox Roost Management:
 - The Board confirmed that the way the Queensland government works with Local government on a state-wide basis is beyond the remit of the Wet Tropics Management Authority.
 - The Board has taken action to try and improve information on Spectacled Flying Fox in relation to the World Heritage Area.
 - Windfarms:
 - The Board has specific concerns about the threat to Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs), and the lack of consideration of the OUVs in the assessment process. Therefore, the Board is providing advice to the Queensland government regarding this matter.
 - Walking Track Strategy:
 - It was decided not to include the Walking Track Strategy in the Sustainable Tourism Plan.
 - The Board is aware of a number of issues around walking tracks and steps currently being undertaken including better communication with user groups.
 - The Board has determined that a new Walking Track Strategy is not a priority, and the Wet Tropics Management Authority does not have the funds to do more than what QPWS&P are already doing in their Walking Tracks Program.
 - State of the Wet Tropics Report:
 - The Annual Report is a legislative requirement
 - The CCC is concerned that the title of the report is misleading and not a traditional report-card type report.
 - SAC to discuss a 5-yearly report card style report, however, the changing of reporting cycles is both a legislative and resource issue with many considerations.
 - Request that new critical research to be included in the Wet Tropics Management Authority's reports.
 - National Reconciliation Week 2023 – WTMA to consider hosting an event.
 - Lucy Graham's, Director of CAFNEC, presentation on Renewable Energy Development and Biodiversity Impacts.

Comments:

- Both the Wangetti Trail and Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail were not included in the original Walking Track Strategy. They were developed from the tourism eco-trails perspective and not from the Walking Track Strategy.
- The 20-year-old existing Walking Track Strategy is a fairly comprehensive document; however, many of the tracks identified have not been further developed, therefore demonstrating the ability to predict the market/demand is imprecise. Further, the Wet Tropics Management Authority is a regulator, which requires careful consideration of the role it can play in this space.
- Summary of reporting requirements, relevant to the discussion on SOWT content and style:
 - The IUCN periodical reporting is completed every 6-7 years – is based on a survey provided by the Commonwealth to the site manager, it is collated and given to IUCN who then produce a report card. The last report was delivered in 2021 and is 114 pages long.
 - The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report is to be completed every 3 years.
 - Queensland government requires a State of the Environment report to be completed every 2 years.
- It was suggested that a diagram be created clearly demonstrating the timing, intentions and requirements of the Wet Tropics Management Authority reporting obligations. This would assist the CCC in understanding the current requirements and assist in beginning to assess the viability of potentially changing any of the reporting cycles.
- The 3-year International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report could be leveraged and released to the community. This report could be summarised into a report-card style and made available to the public – including what are the key issues, what has changed, what has not changed and why.

Director Professor Stephen Williams provided an update from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC):

- There has not been a SAC meeting since the last Board meeting.
- At the last Board meeting, the Board endorsed two (2) new SAC members. Both have been formally invited, with one response and one still under consideration. Appointment of both new members is proposed until the end of November 2023.
- The next SAC meeting is planned for the second week of November and will be a joint meeting with the CCC.

Action:

- The Chair to write to Alan Gillanders (Alan's Wildlife Tours, Yungaburra) to acknowledge his participation and contribution to the Wet Tropics Management Authority Community Consultative Committee.
- Lucy Graham the Director of Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) to be invited to deliver her presentation on Renewable Energy Development and Biodiversity Impacts at a Board meeting during 2023.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority to consider hosting an event for National Reconciliation week between 27 May 2023 and 3 June 2023.

Resolution

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

3.7 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the Significant Correspondence.

Correspondence In:

30 August 2022	Lucy Graham, Director Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) regarding a response to the Board regarding Flying Fox roost Management reform for Queensland Report including the goals and constraints of the Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Team and providing follow up questions
11 September 2022	The Hon. Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, Commonwealth Government acknowledging receipt of correspondence, the work of the Wet Tropics Management Authority and wishing the best for the 19 th Cassowary Awards.
22 September 2022	The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland regarding details and logistics for upcoming presentation and expert panel participation at the Climate Change Forum at the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland/University of Queensland event on 29 October 2022.

Correspondence out

8 July 2022	Gavin Sinclair, Project Manager, Yirrganydji Land and Sea Program. Re: Letter of support for Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation's application to the National Indigenous Australians Agency Tourism Fund.
31 August 2022	Letter of Support for Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation's application to the Indigenous and Sea Corporation in its application for funding under <i>Our Country Our Future</i> national funding program
22 September 2022	The Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Youth Affairs, Queensland Government regarding invitation to the 19 th Cassowary Awards.
22 September 2022	The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, Commonwealth Government regarding invitation to the 19 th Cassowary Awards.
23 September 2022	Ms Judy Andrews. RE: Letter of Support – Lot 8 SP 123877 Bloomfield Declaration – Vegetation Management Act
26 September 2022	Letter of Support – Skilling Queenslanders for Work – Workskills Traineeships – Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation.
30 September 2022	Brett Krause, Brettacorp. Re: Round 7 - Community Sustainability Action Grants 2022 – Queensland Threatened Species Recovery
6 October 2022	Angela McCaffrey, President, Trees for the Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands. (TREAT). Re: Letter of Support for TREAT Round 7 – Community Sustainability Action Grants 2022
28 October 2022	Gavin Singleton. Re: Letter of Support for Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporations application to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Sea Country Indigenous Protected Areas Program Grant Opportunity.

Resolution

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

3.8 Australian World Heritage Forum

Chrissy Grant spoke to Board Paper 3.8:

- The Wet Tropics Management Authority will be presenting at the Australian World Heritage Forum in Canberra in November 2022.
- The presentation will be focused on youth and First Nations engagement with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area from a tourism (cultural landscapes and natural values) and climate change perspective.
- Presentation will include elements of Natalia's Youth Round Table report along with the Rainforest Aboriginal People's statement on climate change (initially drafted in 2019).
- There will be First Nations people from other World Heritage areas engaged in the Forum.
- Chrissy will be presenting on behalf of Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) and reporting back on the Cultural Values Workshop.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update to the Australian World Heritage Forum.

3.9 19th Cassowary Awards

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez spoke to Board Paper 3.9:

- The 19th Cassowary Awards are being held the day following the Board meeting, Saturday 8 October 2022.
- All Board members have received a run-sheet of the event.
- Timing of the program:
- Board to arrive at 3.45pm.
- Official Commencement at 5:15pm.
- Completion at approximately 7:45pm.
- Currently 172 attendance registrations.
- There have been some apologies, with no Commonwealth or State ministers attending.
- Chrissy to make opening speech, Scott to make closing speech.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update to the 19th Cassowary Awards.

4. Strategic Issues

4.1 Quarterly Budget and Milestone Update

Scott Buchanan spoke to Board Paper 4.1:

- Key item for discussion is the budget and approval of spending of carried over funds from 2022FY for \$188k.
- Total budget for 2023 financial year is \$12,900,000, including:
 - \$7.6 million is allocated for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.
 - \$4.7 million base.
 - \$616k received for special projects (Reef Assist, Restoration Program, Cultural Landscapes).
- There is \$1.8 million yet to be paid to QPWS&P as part of the funding partnership agreement.
- Propose to the Board the spending of the \$188k carried over funds as follows:
 - Provision of services to facilitate transfer website pages to new webpage.
 - State of Wet Tropics Report 2022-2023.
 - Support to RAPTT.

- Graphics for the Business Case.
- Threatened Species – update plant, animal and ecosystem list in accessible database (including conservation status and where appropriate cultural significance).
- Public visibility in World Heritage Area – working with spatial services to make the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area mapping data accessible.
- Improve WHS Training System for Ports North location.
 - Review of Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2023.
- WHS device for remote travel (InReach/GPS).
- Membership to Tourism and Parks Agencies' Forum (TAPAF).
- Improve Boardroom IT.
- Contingency to support youth engagement.

Milestones

- Of the 29 milestones deliverable for the 2022-2023 Annual Business Plan, 90% are on track.
- The staff have delivered some incredible quarterly results, including:
 - The launch of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance.
 - Great steps have been taken in the Sustainable Tourism Plan and the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program.
 - End of year Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program report plus 4-year project plans and continued on-ground results.
 - Positive negotiations with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.
 - Continued project management of Reef Assist.
 - Preparations for the 19th Cassowary Awards.
- Milestones currently at risk:
 - The Regional Agreement Refresh.
 - Youth Engagement – will be back on track after the Cassowary Awards.
 - Communication Strategy – draft will be presented at Board meeting 122.

Commentary included:

- Salary increases have been included in the budget
- The Wet Tropics Management Authority will use funding to rescope the threatened species work with Traditional Owners.
- Engagement of contractors in terms of factors and considerations for deciding on engaging a contractor or employee.
- The engagement of a contractor the strategic plan review, including the skills and experience required. The Sustainable Tourism Plan used a contractor and it needed an additional 9 months to finish. The contractor would need to be exceptionally good and be able to work with the Managers.
- Future timing and format for the Cassowary Awards. To be considered at the next Board meeting, including using sponsorship to cover the costs of an employee to run and manage the event
- Scott acknowledged Robyn and Sally's comments on the importance of the Communications Strategy.

Action:

- Paper to be presented regarding the 19th Cassowary Awards , and regarding the future execution/implementation of Cassowary Awards at Board Meeting 122

Resolution

The Board:

- Notes the three-monthly review of the 2022-2023 budget and Annual Business Plan milestones

- Endorses the proposed actions to direct additional funds towards priorities as identified by the Wet Tropics Management Authority and outlined in Board Paper 4.1.1

4.2 Review Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Scott Buchanan spoke to Board Paper 4.2.

- The current Strategic Plan has been in effect since 2018 and provides the basis for the 5-year Business Strategy.
- This document is still largely relevant, useful and guides decision-making however, there have been a number of deliverables completed, changes and learnings since 2018 which could initiate a change to the key actions and/or KPIs.
- The current funding agreement ends 30 June 2023, therefore there will be another 5-year Business Strategy associated with the new funding agreement.
- Proposing to review the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan to critically analyse the actions and KPIs, and develop a discussion paper to regarding proposed changes and updates.
- The Strategy outcomes continue to be valid and are not the aim of the review. Rather, the key actions should be reviewed and analysed to ensure a targeted and focused approach to delivering on the outcomes to ensure the Wet Tropics Management Authority's obligations are met.
- Proposing that the review would take 7 months with an engagement at an A05 or A06 level.

Comments:

- Tim Wong will be the Manager overseeing the review, as he was the architect of the current Strategic Plan
- WTMA does not yet have someone in mind for conducting the review. It is yet to be decided if we engage an external consultant or conduct the review internally.
- The scope of the review was discussed in detail, along with actions required. WTMA need to ensure the scope is not too large.
- Two major plans/strategies have been delivered as outcomes under this Strategic Plan – the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021 -2031 and the Climate Adaptation Plan 2020 -2030, both of which have more actions than can be implemented. Perhaps the review should focus on the implementation which will refine the actions of the Strategic Plan. Agreed that the focus of this review should be effective and meaningful implementation.
- Chrissy identified if we do a review now and a review in 5 years' time, it will almost be 2030. It will be time to create a new Strategic Plan.
- Are we making the project bigger than it needs to be? Do we just need a workshop? It is a large task. Perhaps a shorter review and more focus on implementation – implementing to the full potential of Wet Tropics Management Authority with the funding available. This review will look at where does the organisation want to be by the full review in 2028.
- This review will take the place of a review planned for 2025.
- Review should also look at a way to effectively present KPIs. Particularly to tread between being aspiration and reality.
- That the Board is happy with existing budget of \$72,000 if the review can be streamlined.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the proposal to review the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030, however the Board recommends it is looked at from an implementation perspective and includes an investigation into an effective way to present KPIs, in preparation for a new funding agreement from July 2023.

4.3 Landscape Restoration Update

Tim Wong spoke to Board Paper 4.3:

- Biodiversity/species richness will be heavily impacted by temperature increase, with evidence that at the current 1.2 degree Celsius increase, actual impacts are worse than those previously modelled.
- Therefore the importance of priority cool refugia in the Wet Tropics is emphasised – many endemic plants and animals live in these habitats, both inside and outside the protected area estate. These contribute the World Heritage natural and cultural values.
- Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance was developed to build on the successful work to date from multiple stakeholders already across the Wet Tropics landscapes to protect forests, wildlife and biodiversity. There was a desire for a coordinated and supported network including landholders, Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, industry, government, researchers and investors.
- The core partners of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance are Terrain NRM, James Cook University and the Wet Tropics Management Authority. Each of the 3 core partners is already meaningfully engaged, are willing to champion the alliance, and have the capacity to bring all the stakeholders together. The key partners role is to support and assist the successful work continuing.
- There are significant milestones in the last 12 months including:
 - Announcement at Wet Tropics Restoration Symposium
 - Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance concept and review
 - Discussion paper developed
 - Refined the Alliance model based on engagement and consultation; and
 - Launch of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance with 50+ attendees, with attendees creating and signing a statement of commitment
- Focus for the next 12 months for the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance:
 - Develop an investment strategy to attract and target initial landscape investment – led by Wet Tropics Management Authority. This has largely already started this work, with funding already allocated. A critical piece will be the body of science being prioritised.
 - Development of 3 pilot “walking the landscape” in priority climate refugia catchments – facilitated by Wet Tropics Management Authority. Already have funding from DES for this.
 - Further develop Cassowary Credits, subject to ongoing investment – led by Terrain NRM
 - Regional land Partnership Grants Program – led by Terrain NRM
 - Research transition and co-design of future research program – led by James Cook University
- Have engaged First Nations in the development of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance however what is missing is a deeper and more meaningful conversation. There will be a Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance session at the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Regional Forum in October 2022 to progress this issue.

Comments:

- Cassowary Credits are not purely related to cassowaries, rather it is focussed on rainforest restoration.
- The Wet Tropics Management Authority is a core partner, however the intention is that the alliance allows money to flow to Alliance members to conduct restoration activities.
- Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) came to the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity. TNFD aim to develop a system that includes funding eligibility requirements; however it is nature based at the moment, and not considering cultural values aspects sufficiently. This might be interesting for the Alliance to investigate further.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update to the Landscape Restoration Program.

4.4 Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum and RAPTT Update

Alicia Haines spoke to Board Paper 4.4:

- The Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum will be held from 28 to 30 October 2022.
- Currently approximately 40 Rainforest Aboriginal participants have confirmed their attendance.
- Starting to receive RSVPs from stakeholders and government agencies.
- The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Think Tank (RAPTT) have provided a submission to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, with the assistance of Wet Tropics Management Authority, for funding for a proposed new governance framework. Theresa Fyffe, Executive Director Projects and Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Foundation has responded that any considerations for partnerships or funding is on hold until February 2023 due to staffing constraints.
- The Wet Tropics Management Authority has budget to support RAPTT in the delivery of the Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum. The RAPTT will lead the closed session on Friday and present during the other days.
- Following the Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum, depending on the outcomes, perhaps the RAPTT will be on hold until February 2023 when discussions with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation can resume.
- The Wet Tropics Management Authority team will focus on the Cultural Landscapes project that is funded through the Australian Heritage Grant during this time, until February 2023
- From January 2023, there will be a balance of approximately \$10,000 in the budget to support the RAPTT. Will look at possibly convening a meeting prior to the resumption of discussions for funding with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Comments:

- In the absence of RAPTT there is a need for a First Nations Advisory group that the Wet Tropics Management Authority can consult for its business. The First Nations Advisory group would need to be a content expert group rather than a representative group. Currently WTMA is consulting through existing networks but there isn't a coordinated group for day-to-day business. There have been many iterations of a First Nations Advisory Committee over the years, the current solution is an Indigenous Advisory Member (IAM) on the CCC, SAC and Board of Directors.
- Some of the RAPTT Board aren't engaging/participating as they aren't seeing progress and it isn't First Nations led. Add in the lack of immediate funding and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples are frustrated. It will be discussed at the Regional Forum which may re-direct the focus and intention of the RAPTT to progress forward and/or further funding options.

Action:

Alicia to report the outcomes of the Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum at Board meeting 122 (already an action under Board 120 Action 26)

Resolution

The Board:

- **Noted** the update about the 2022 Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum.
- **Endorsed** the proposal for the Wet Tropics Management Authority to focus and concentrate on Cultural Landscapes following the Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum.
- **Endorse** that the Wet Tropics Management Authority begins to identify options for how to develop an interim First Nations Advisory group that the Wet Tropics Management Authority can consult for its day-to-day business

4.5 Communications Update

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez spoke to Board Paper 4.5:

- There have been delays in the Communication Strategy and Youth Engagement Strategy due to significant resourcing constraints and competing organisational priorities aligning.
- Phoebe and Matt will lead the Communication Strategy, with the aim to finalise the strategy by June 2023
- The Communications Strategy will be overarching but it will be developed concurrently with the review of the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030, development of the Business Strategy 2023-2028 and the proposed Commonwealth funding agreement 2023-2028.
- The Youth Engagement Plan was approved in 2020 however a lot has changed since then. There has been significant work in this space, although it needs coordination.
- There are areas requiring further consultation and consideration such as:
 - Projects that connect at-risk Indigenous youth to on-Country activities
 - Youth targeted educational content and key messaging – Tour Guide Program and Cultural Landscapes projects with a wealth of content that will have many uses. Knowledge Hub will also be a resource to assist teachers to develop curriculum.
 - Coordination of youth education activities and presentations
 - Identification of collaborative partnerships to deliver programs. The Wet Tropics Management Authority won't be running the activities, rather it will be coordinating.
 - External funding options to support youth programs – Matt has already identified potential funding, as well as the additional \$10,000 from the budget.

Comments:

- Chrissy and Robyn haven't had an opportunity to meet with Matt and Keith to further progress the Youth Engagement Strategy.
- Chrissy has referred Matt to a few different programs that he hasn't had a chance to look at yet, programs like Parramatta State School's presentation today.
- Wet Tropics Management Authority need to foster the opportunity for youth to progress through the ranks.
- Youth at risk support activities could focus on on-country activities with Elders, working with rangers, restoration projects, tourism projects etc. there are opportunities for Wet Tropics Management Authority to facilitate the linking up of youth with programs.
- Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation has a youth on-country program.
- The CCC and SAC membership renewal in 2023 is an opportunity for representation from young people.

Action:

- Draft Communications Strategy to be presented at Board Meeting 122 for feedback from the Board (already an action under Board 113/2)
- Draft Youth Engagement Strategy to be presented at Board Meeting 122 for feedback from the Board.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the progress with the Communications Strategy and Youth Engagement Strategy.

4.6 Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program

Tamara Siemionow spoke to Board Paper 4.6:

- Draft 2 of the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program (the Program) concept plan was provided in the Board papers 4.6.
- The Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021 – 2031 was launched last year with 6 key goals and 28 supporting actions. The refreshed Program is progressing a number of priority actions linked to Goals 1 and 5.
- A signed 3.5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DES and TEQ is contributing \$195,000 plus in-kind support.
- Kelp Creative have been engaged to develop the Program concept:
 - Milestone 1 – Research and Evaluation (delivered) – A research field trip evaluation report that reviewed 8 tour experiences anonymously to consistent criteria was provided. Many strengths were recognised and several opportunities for improvement. 8 recommendations informed the design of the concept plan.
 - Milestone 2 – Concept Design (underway) – Draft 1 was circulated internally. Draft 2 was distributed for external stakeholder engagement and feedback. There was overwhelming support for the concept, with the lowest average survey result returning 4.1 out of 5, with 5 indicating the highest support. A broad range of stakeholders were invited to comment including 54 individuals across 47 different organisations and a Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples focus group. Draft 3 is underway, with all feedback reviewed, considered and where appropriate, adopted.
- Key guiding principles of the Program include promoting World Heritage and National Heritage values, respect for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, Country and culture, enhance the capacity of Wet Tropics advocates and support ongoing professional practice.
- 4 key gaps were identified that are addressed by 6 program goals, which inform the program metrics. These are being refined with relevant partners.
- The training content is being developed concurrently and will have further consultation. It will be based on current research, endorsed by experts and, where appropriate, Traditional Custodians.
- The training is based on a series of consecutive training modules, varying in detail and time commitment to match the needs of each advocacy role identified; Ambassadors, Enablers or Practitioners.
- Marketing firm KOMS was procured to design the Program brand and assets, which is being developed concurrently.
 - Milestone 1 – draft brand strategy has been delivered and the program name agreed as ‘Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides – A Queensland Guide Program’. This was not one of the proposed names put forward by KOMS.
 - Milestone 2 – The steering committee has provided feedback on the first iteration of the logo design and directed a positive pathway to proceed to Draft 2.
- Program design is on track for proposed completion in December 2022 with the online build to commence in January 2023, for launch in mid-2023.
- The Cultural Landscapes Hub is identified as an essential supporting resource. To be developed with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, it aims to enhance cultural awareness.
- Additional funding opportunities need to be identified, particularly to resource the Knowledge Hub, which will support the sharing of current, endorsed, scientific research.
- The new Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides will replace the existing Wet Tropics Ambassador Program and Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program.

Comments:

- Training will be hosted online on the Authority's website. Practitioners will undertake an additional practical element, which supports quality control.
- This is a very comprehensive plan. It highlights the Nature-based Tourism Strategy and could have more emphasis on cultural tourism.
- The reference to TEQ's existing Nature-based Tourism Strategy can't be changed. There is potential gap to identify that the Program is a capacity building opportunity for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples to enhance skills and support tourism aspirations.
- While the online learning environment may create a barrier for some people, we are limited by resourcing and funding. Face to face delivery also presents attendance challenges.
- John Pastorelli is contracted by Kelp Creative for content creation. All content will be based on current research, endorsed by experts and consulted with Traditional Owners.
- In terms of the issue of guides speaking on others' Country, the Program only shares general knowledge, focussing on highlighting the National Heritage-listed cultural values and the importance of appropriate Acknowledgements of Country. It will inform guides on what they can and can't talk about and build confidence to answer enquiries for stories appropriately, helping visitors to better understand the respect demonstrated by not sharing cultural stories. This will encourage more visitors to seek out cultural experiences led by Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples. The Cultural Landscapes Hub will help build cultural awareness for guides undertaking the program

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update of the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program.

5. Other Business

5.1 Board communique:

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Communique for Meeting 120.

5.2 Other Business:

Acknowledgements:

Erin Dampney, Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW thanked the Board of Directors and staff for their hospitality, it was fantastic to see the initiatives in the Wet Tropics, it gave excellent context.

2023 Board Meeting Dates:

Will be determined out of session

Meeting Close

Board Meeting 12 closed at 5.10pm.



Ms Christine T Grant

Chair

07/10/2022