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## Previous Minutes Board Meeting 122

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### ***In Attendance***

#### **Board Directors**

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

#### **Observers**

Martin Dallen	Assistant Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
Shane Dagwell	Heritage Officer, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
James Newman	Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, DES
Julia Playford	Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, DES
Angela Siggery	Director World Heritage, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, DES
Gayle O'Brien	Acting Deputy Director General, DTIS
Bruce Alzeddin	Project Manager, Policy Partnerships and Events, DTIS

#### **WTMA Staff**

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

#### **Other**

Kylie McQuie	HR Dynamics (minute taker)
Simon Towle	Ekos Logic Consulting Network (for Agenda item 4.1)
Crag Carttling	Ekos Logic Consulting Network (for Agenda item 4.1)

## **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, the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples participating in the meeting, and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples of the Wet Tropics region as the Traditional Custodians of this landscape. The Chair paid her respects to their Elders and her own Elders of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and welcomed Directors, observers, current and new staff to the meeting both in person and online.

## 1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Robbie Meddick	Director, Tourism Policy, DTIS
Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program

## 1.3. Conflicts of interest

None recorded.

# 2. Previous minutes and actions arising

## 2.1 Previous Minutes—Board Meeting 121

Minor corrections are required for the Chair's report in the minutes of Board Meeting 121.

### Resolution

The Board **Endorsed** the minutes for Board Meeting 121 (with corrections)

## 2.2 Actions arising

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

No.	Meeting	Agenda Item/Action	Comments
2	113	Communications Strategy.	Currently under review, wait to include alignment with strategic review recommendations. An update will be provided at Board Meeting 123.
4	Extra-ordinary Meeting	Develop a checklist for WTMA to guide ethical funding.	Draft discussion paper will be presented at Board Meeting 123.
5	118	Director Training.	Delayed due to the appointment of Rainforest Aboriginal male Director. Provider has been secured. Anticipating Board Meeting 123.
7	118	Youth involvement on the Board.	A discussion paper regarding a Youth Engagement Strategy is currently being prepared that will be reviewed at the next Youth Working Group.
9	119	SAC to develop relationship with Whitsundays Climate Change Innovation Hub Scientific Advisory Committee.	No further action required. Complete.
15	119	Questions that will inform and be incorporated into the planning of the 2022-2023 State of the Wet Tropics report.	Complete.
P18	119	Landscape Restoration Initiatives in the Wet Tropics – Youth Round Table Report.	Complete.

No.	Meeting	Agenda Item/Action	Comments
23	119	UNESCO World Heritage Convention 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.	Complete.
26	120	Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum 2022.	Agenda item 4.2 at Board Meeting 122. Outcomes to be presented. Complete.
27	120	Youth employment opportunities and pathways in QPWS.	Complete.
28	120	Board's position statement on windfarms – placed on WTMA's website.	Complete.
29	120	Board's position statement on windfarms – provide to Ministers.	Complete.
1	121	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.	Refer to Significant Correspondence. Complete.
2	121	Circulate the printable version of the Business Case brochure to the Board of Directors.	Complete.
3	121	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.	Update in Agenda item 3.2 at Board Meeting 122. Complete.
4	121	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.	Complete.
5	121	The Chair to write to Alan Gillanders (Alan's Wildlife Tours, Yungaburra) to acknowledge his participation and contribution to CCC.	Letters of thank you will be provided to all outgoing CCC and SAC members including Alan Gillanders for his years of service. Complete.
6	121	WTMA to consider hosting an event for National Reconciliation week between 27 May 2023 and 3 June 2023.	Currently investigating options for a small event in collaboration with other partners.
7	121	19 <sup>th</sup> Cassowary Awards.	Agenda item 4.4 at Board Meeting 122. Complete.
8	121	Draft Youth Engagement Strategy.	Superseded by Action. Item 7 (Board Meeting 118). Remove.
9	121	Wangetti and Paluma Trail Update from DTIS	Tim Wong briefed by DTIS and QPWS in Dec 2022 and Jan 2023. Further update to be provided in Agenda item 3.4 at Board Meeting 122. Complete.

## 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 finalised selection reports and recommendations for the Rainforest Aboriginal position (male) on the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) Board of Directors, has been endorsed by Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP (State), and is now with the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP (Commonwealth).
- In October, involved in the recruitment for the ED while Scott is on leave, and attended the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum in Cairns.
- In November, attended the Australia World Heritage Forum in Canberra, and facilitated a half-day workshop on the Indigenous Cultural Values and a Voice for Traditional Owners in World Heritage properties.
- In December, attended COP15 in Montreal, and visited UNESCO Paris to discuss World Heritage issues discussed at the Australia World Heritage Forum in Canberra including Indigenous Cultural Values inclusion in existing statements. Meetings were also held with both International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). As the Chair of International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage (IPFWH), have had two (2) meetings since December 2022, with an additional meeting at the end of March 2023. Discussions have focused on inclusion of Indigenous Cultural Values in existing statements.
- Also in December, met with Hon Tanya Plibersek MP on multiple matters including: Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan launched on 15 November 2022; Update on outcomes of the visit UNSECO World Heritage Centre; Rainforest Aboriginal male Board Director recruitment, and the Authority's Business Case.
- In January 2023, held discussions with Terrain NRM about working together regarding advice from Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples. Also met with Leslie Shirreffs to finalise the draft Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Cultural Values Management Plan.
- Met with Simon Towle and Crag Carttling from Ekos Logic Consulting Network for interim operational review of Wet Tropics Management Authority's Strategic Plan 2020-2030 in February, and attended the workshop on the Cultural Values Management Plan
- During March, delivered a keynote address for the Threatened Species Symposium for Terrain NRM, and conducted visits and meetings with Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI) and Cairns Airport.

## 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:

- Returned from leave on Monday 6 March 2023, and thanked Tim Wong for great job as Acting Executive Director over the last 3 months and acknowledged staff for both taking on extra responsibilities and/or stepping into acting roles during this time.
- Yellow Crazy Ants: Between December 2022 and February 2023, the field team collected 256,124 data points, which is over twice last year's collection rate - an incredible job especially as it has been a wetter Wet Season this year causing more disruptions than usual. This is a result of an effective

- targeted recruitment campaign for casual employees, and an earlier induction day to ensure suitability of candidates. 2379.2 hectares are being managed, we are making significant inroads:
- 42 hectares declared eradicated, and 101 hectares under post treatment validation process to declare eradication.
  - 1,672 hectares that are no or low Yellow Crazy Ants, watch and see or spot treatment.
  - 563 hectares currently under broadscale treatment.
- Also doing fantastic world-leading work in finding confidence in the level of probability of the absence of Yellow Crazy Ants. Recent eradication has 95-99% probability of true absence.
  - The fourth Yellow Crazy Ant detection dog is being trained up to be in the field.
  - The 4-year funding agreement schedule is with Queensland Government for review and approval, and operations can continue as normal in the meantime.
  - In terms of the Townsville infestation, Biosecurity Queensland are managing and taking a larger role in the project than they did in Cairns. Funding is going to Biosecurity Queensland, with some funding already provided to Townsville City Council. The Authority is providing advice.
  - Accelerating Restoration in the Wet Tropics
    - Restoration Alliance: The Authority, Terrain NRM, and James Cook University continue to collaborate on the development. Keith Speyers left in December 2022 to QPWS, Kylie Freebody has taken over the coordination role. There is an intention to ensure a broad governance structure that includes a steering committee with members in addition to the Authority, Terrain and JCU. The EOI for Steering Committee membership is open until 20 March 2023
    - Other Program updates:
      - Working with Jabalbina for a Daintree Catchment Plan and Sub-Catchment Plan. There is an opportunity with Eastern Kuku Yalanji peoples having property handed back to them by Rainforest 4 Foundation.
      - In November 2022 a purchase was made of a corridor in the southern Wet Tropics, near Tully, facilitated by the Restoration Alliance working together. Land had been identified as corridor for Mahogany Gliders and Cassowaries. The Authority provided a letter of support, and the land is now being managed for restoration.
  - Budget update: in February 2023 the Management Forum reviewed the Authority's current spending. There is an anticipated underspend of \$64,000. Proposed reallocation includes:
    - \$16,000 for Board logistics including training this financial year.
    - \$9,000 to support inductions and the initial meeting for new Scientific Advisory Committee and Community Consultative Committee.
    - a short-term contract (2-3 months) to attend to records management.
    - \$5,000 - \$10,000 for an all staff planning workshop for addressing the Strategic Plan 2020-2030 review recommendations, and as a team building event.
    - Current variation of Year-to-date Budget verses Year-to-date Spend is less than 3.5%
  - Meetings/speaking engagements:
    - Provided a lecture at James Cook University on Climate Change Management issues and Presented Wet Tropics Management Authority's Climate Policy at University of Queensland.
    - Tim Wong presented at the first National Adaptation Forum, hosted by NESP Climate Systems Hub and Adapt NSW on building an adaptation plan for a World Heritage Area.
    - Also attended Australian World Heritage Forum with Chrissy Grant, Sean McNamara, and Alicia Haines. This was a fantastic forum organised by DCCEEW.
    - Met with Cairns Airport CEO Richard Barker. They are doing fantastic work with the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Ranger Program.

- Met with Maria Mabo – Operations Manager - of Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI) to discuss how WTMA can be a conduit for the agencies we work with for opportunities.
- In terms of speaking opportunities, Chrissy Grant also updated that The Australian Academy of Science are looking for nominations for roundtable panellists to support the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel. These will start Friday 17 March 2023. Although it is focused on the Great Barrier Reef; the catchment areas are part of the wider conversation as they have an impact. Three (3) panels: Climate Change, Interventions and the Way Forward.

## Resolution

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

### 3.3 Directors' Updates

The Directors provided the following updates:

#### ***Ms Robin Clark:***

- Attended the meeting of the Queensland branch of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and their Climate Change Working Group:
  - the Planning Institute of Australia has announced that climate change is a national emergency and prepared a 10-point Action Plan.
  - One of the actions is to review planning legislation and put forward amendments to the Queensland State government to improve consideration of climate change in all planning decisions.
  - Preparing guideline to manage urban heat impacts, should be released shortly.

#### ***Dr Sally Driml:***

- Working with the National Parks Association. Looking at ecosystems service benefits of national parks and the economic case for protecting natural environments. Likely to be a long-term project, is commencing in the next couple of weeks.

#### ***Ms Ailsa Lively:***

- Attended the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum in October 2022 and debrief In December 2022 including reviewing forum resolutions.
- Contacted by Hurriyet Babacan who is doing work for Girringun Aboriginal Corporation for a Wet Tropics Cultural Heritage project, providing consultation for that project.
- Met with Margaret Ross-Kelly, the new Senior Project Officer for the Authority's Cultural Landscapes Hub Project (since re-named Bama Country and Culture Project) in December 2022 in preparation for first steering committee meeting, which was held in February 2023. The steering committee was well attended.

#### ***Professor Stephen Williams:***

- Since the last board meeting, has been on long service leave. Steve has since decided to take an early retirement package, therefore no longer working for James Cook University.
- Will be taking six (6) months off whilst establishing on the Sunshine Coast. Looking to get into climate adaptation consultation work.
- Published paper on climate change impacts on rainforest Ringtail Possums and birds, with media coverage. Lemuroid Ringtail Possums have now been listed as critically endangered in Queensland, the nomination for the EPBC Act list of threatened species is currently being processed.

## Resolution

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

### 3.4 Queensland Department Reports

***Bruce Alzeddin - Project Manager, Policy Partnerships and Events, DTIS, provided the following update:***

- Towards Tourism 2032 has been released - the new 10-year strategy for the State. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area will feature heavily as well as eco-based and nature-based tourism offerings. There is one specific action in the Strategy that is being led by the Authority. That is, the development of best practice for tour guides in World Heritage terrestrial areas, with support of Tourism Events Queensland (TEQ): the Wet Tropics World Heritage Tour Guide Program. This can act as a pilot for all the other World Heritage properties around the State.
- As a result of the \$2 million Eco-Certified Tourism Destination Program there are fourteen (14) new Eco-Certified Tourism destination locations including: Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cassowary Coast, Ethridge Shire, Gladstone, Gympie, Capricorn Coast, Moreton Bay, Murweh Shire, Noosa Shire, Scenic Rim, Townsville, Whitsundays, and Winton. The intention of the program is to build a network of globally recognised certified destinations throughout Queensland.
- Wangetti Trail: Progressing, have been some geotechnical issues that are being worked through with DES - further work to be done. DTIS is scheduled to meet with Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation on 15 March for discussions. Tim Wong also updated with some details including discussions between the Authority and DTIS: the first 7km of the trail from Palm Cove to Ellis Beach is moving ahead. As a result of the geotechnical issues, there will be adjustments to some sections of the trail. Will be making sure that the movement of the trail will be consistent with the permit approval conditions issued by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

***Gayle O'Brien – Acting Deputy Director General, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS) provided the following update to Directors:***

Wangetti Trail:

- Milestones already achieved include: the Cultural Heritage survey; clearance of the Wangetti South section with First Nations Land and Sea Rangers; significant progress on finalising the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA); approval of Wangetti South by the Commonwealth as a Controlled Action under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act; received development approval from Cairns Regional Council for a portion of the trail; and in the final stages of development approval from Douglas Regional Council for the remainder of the trail.
- Detailed design refinement has resulted in some geotechnical challenges that has led to some trail realignment to avoid ecological and environmental areas of concern. In the process of getting final environmental approvals from DES.
- DTIS applied for two (2) permits from the Authority in December 2019 with approval given in 2020 for the entire trail. With the revised realignment DTIS will be submitting amendments for the permits. Met with the Authority's team a month ago to begin discussions about the forthcoming design and realignment changes.
- Once all permits and approvals are in place, construction can commence on the Wangetti South part the trail from Palm Cove to Ellis Beach (7km).
- Concurrently obtaining all permits and approvals for second stage Ellis Beach to Wangetti – 25km of trail and will be seeking a new permit for new Dark Jungle public camping area as well.
- Wangetti North – Still looking at the realignment and will attempt to make sure it does not suffer the same obstacles and challenges as the Wangetti South part of the trail.

#### Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail:

- Revised Business Case was circulated to key stakeholders late in 2022.
- Since had a detailed briefing with the Mayor and Councillors with Hinchinbrook Shire Council.
- Looking at hiring more staff including one that will specifically be working on the Paluma to Wallaman Falls trail including the proposed activations by DTIS, DES and consultation with Traditional Owners at either end of the trail.
- Still mapping out the exact next steps once the new staff member is engaged.
- Tim Wong added that the Authority received the Business Case at the end of 2022 and raised some concerns about legislative requirements for particular activities and infrastructure siting.

#### ***Angela Siggery – Director, World Heritage, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, Department of Environment and Science (DES) provided the following update to Directors:***

- Cape York (Nomination): Erin Dampney (Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW), Karen Hussey and Marella Umbach have been in Cairns for meetings regarding the Cape York World Heritage election commitment.
- Riversleigh: Boodjamulla and QPWS&P staff have been evacuated due to recent flooding, all are safe and well. There is not a significant threat to the World Heritage Area from the flooding. A 3-year plan for Riversleigh is being developed to focus the attention and priorities of the advisory committee on what they can better influence for outcomes of the World Heritage areas.
- K'gari – Work is underway on a 3-year plan, with close collaboration with the Traditional Owners and QPWS&P. Also underway is planning for a climate adaptation pilot project, which is expected to be completed in 3 months.
- Gondwana – have received an Australian Heritage Grant for Cultural Heritage Assessments with the Traditional Owners. Even though Gondwana is not listed for Cultural Values, the intention is to relist for Cultural Values in the World Heritage listing in the future.
- Quandamooka (Nomination) – the grant is almost complete and looking at next steps.

#### ***James Newman—Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P) provided the following update to Directors:***

- One year ago, a governance group was established within QPWS&P regarding partnership with First Nations people. The group has met a quite few times and recently met in Brisbane for the first time.
- Human Resources:
  - Regional Director – Chris Kinnaird retired, which is a large loss for QPWS&P and the Authority.
  - Acting Regional Director in place temporarily, currently actively recruiting, hoping to have a permanent Regional Director soon. Have had some great candidates. There have been four Regional Directors in the last two years, looking forward to longevity.
  - John Clarkson the Principal Botanist at QPWS&P is about to retire after 55 years and will be sadly missed.
- Planned Burn Guidelines for the Wet Tropics: Has been recommended for the next chapter of Queensland Bio-Regional Planned Burn Guidelines. This is great news - This project is a result of successful partnership between QPWS&P and the Authority.
- Update on burning: Have had some successful early season burning around Cardwell and the Cardwell Range, including in blue banksia ecosystems.
- High Altitude Species Monitoring Program: Have a calendar in place, the Authority will try to join now that dates are locked in.



- Feral Cat Management: Chris Roach has been doing some work in the Innisfail area using Felix the robotic trap. Been successful and effective but a very expensive way to deal with feral cats.
- Location/Project Updates:
  - Daintree: Collaborating with Jabalbina and the Authority regarding the Visitor Identity Kit for presenting the World Heritage Values as part of the Daintree Hub Project.
  - Crater Lakes: Twin Kauris project due for completion in March 2023
  - Lake Eacham: Interpretation and re-design of the day use area is underway.
  - Wallaman Falls: Has very significant cultural values, met on site last week, and working to finalise a Cultural Protocol.
  - Mossman Falls: Recently lost a tourist which has resulted a media campaign around safety in water which included a press conference.
- Compliance: working with the Authority on known hot spots, with compliance checks on the weekends.

### Resolution

The Board **Noted** the Queensland Government Department reports.

## 3.5 Commonwealth Government Department Reports

***Shane Dagwell – Heritage Officer, Heritage Projects Section, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) provided the following update to Directors:***

- The Australian Heritage Council met in Hobart on 7 and 8 December 2022. The next meeting will be held on 23 March 2023.
- UNESCO World Heritage Committee update:
  - 44<sup>th</sup> Session due to be held in Russia in June 2022 was postponed.
  - 45<sup>th</sup> Session will be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 10 to 25 September 2023 and will be Chaired by Saudi Arabia.
  - State Party Reports on State of Conservation – awaiting a draft agenda for confirmation for which properties will be considered at the 45<sup>th</sup> Session.
  - State of Conservation Reports for the Great Barrier Reef, Gondwana Rainforest and Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Areas have been submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the World Heritage Committee’s consideration.
- Proposed new World Heritage listings that DCCEEW are supporting the progression of include: Adding Cultural and First Nations Heritage to existing World and National Heritage listed areas - \$5.5 million in grants available to support this initiative; Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage nomination; Flinders Rangers; Cape York Peninsula; West Kimberley; Parramatta Female Factory; and Victorian and Broken Hill Trade Halls (as part of the Danish serial transnational proposal of Worker’s Assembly Halls).
- CSIRO Climate Change Report and Tool Kit was released in early January 2023. It is available on the Heritage Publication Pages of the DCCEEW website.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2023 Conservation Outlook Assessment: Following the last update in 2020, decided that the timeframe between reporting cycles will change from 3 years to 5 years, with the next one to be published in 2025.
- The Australian Heritage Strategy review commenced in 2022. Currently awaiting the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP’s advice for next steps and will keep you informed.

- The Australian Heritage grants for round 5 (2022-2023) closed for applications on 7 November 2022. The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP is currently considering the recommendations.
- The 2023-2024 National and Commonwealth Heritage Listing Nominations are open until 19 April 2023. Anyone can nominate a place.
- Deloitte was appointed by DCCEWW to conduct a desktop economic evaluation of World Heritage properties. Thank you for contributing to the data request for this evaluation.

## 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):***

- CCC Report was provided to the Board of Directors on Thursday 9 March 2023.
- The Joint CCC and SAC meeting was held on 16 November 2022, and a separate CCC group met on 16 February 2023. Issues and recommendations included:
  - For State of the Wet Tropics reporting, the CCC recommends that the Authority aims towards a State of the Environment report based largely on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Conservation Outlook Assessment and explore the possibility of a steering committee. The Authority notes these comments and responds that suggestions will be considered through the current set of legislative amendments.
  - The CCC also recommends annual reporting of new research published about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
  - Recommendation that through the Restoration Alliance, that a list of industry experts on restoration be made available to increase opportunities for knowledge sharing.
  - The CCC recommends that the Walking Tracks Strategy 2001 on the Wet Tropics Management Authority website is removed. The CCC believe this document is no longer relevant, causes confusion and doesn't have current walking tracks on there.
  - The draft Guideline to Ethical External Funding is complete and will be presented at the next Board Meeting. It will be a useful document for the Authority.
  - One concern that came from the joint SAC and CCC meeting was the visibility of material presented on the Wet Tropics Management Authority's website.
  - Discussions regarding the barriers to restoration related to valuations.

#### Actions:

- Dr Sally Driml as Chair of the CCC will present a draft Guideline to Ethical External Funding at Board Meeting 123.
- The Board to consider the removal/superseding of the Walking Track Strategy 2001, to be discussed at Board Meeting 123.

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

- The SAC has had one meeting since Board Meeting 121. That was the joint meeting with the CCC. Next meeting with new members is scheduled for April 2023.
- Discussed the potential for nomination of the Uplands of the Wet Tropics as a threatened ecological community. Brief regarding this nomination is not completed.

- The Board this morning determined the new members of the incoming SAC for the 2023-2026 term.
- Delighted with the new SAC members as they bring a diversity of skills and expertise including First Nations management and fire, restoration, threatened species, ecology, weeds, fresh water, social sciences, and fire ecology. Great combination of skills and expertise with a combination of continuity of service as well as new people to join the group. Still to recruit male Aboriginal Rainforest person.

### Resolution

The Board **Noted** the Scientific Advisory Committee and Community Consultative Committee reports.

### 3.7 Significant correspondence

The Board reviewed the below significant correspondence:

Date	From / To	Description	Action for Directors
20 October 2022	To: Senator Murray Watt MP From: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board	Letter to Minister Watt regarding issues relating to WTMA dealings with Australian Pesticides and Veterinary medicines Authority (APVMA)	Noted
1 November 2022	To: Anthony Edwards, Goondoi Land and Sea Rangers From: Scott Buchanan, Executive Director, WTMA	Letter of support for Goondoi Aboriginal Rangers' application for Biosecurity Business Grants Round 2	Noted
6 November 2022	To: Daniel Leipnik, Cairns Aquarium From: Scott Buchanan, Executive Director, WTMA	Letter of support for Cairns Aquarium for Australian Heritage Grant 2022-2023	Noted
9 November 2022	To: Mark Vis, Tablelands Regional Council From: Scott Buchanan, Executive Director, WTMA	Response to correspondence regarding Arthur Baillie Road – maintenance compliance issues	Noted
15 November 2022	To: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board From: Senator Murray Watt MP	Response to WTMA Correspondence on 20 October 2022 regarding APVMA issue	Noted
22 November 2022	To: Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP From: Heather Grant, North Queensland Land Management Service (auspiced by Heather for WTMA)	Letter of support auspiced by Heather Grant regarding WTMA Youth Roundtable Report	Noted
23 December 2022	To: Jenny Lynch, Abiculture From: Tim Wong, Acting Executive Director, WTMA	WTMA support for the Gimuy Walabura Yidinji Elders Advisory Committee (GMYEAC) proposal to work with CSIRO for baseline assessments for Trinity Inlet	Noted
9 January 2023	To: Chalumbin Wind Farm Pty Ltd c/ Ark Energy From: Tim Wong, Acting Executive Director, WTMA	WTMA submission to the Public Environment Report regarding the proposed Chalumbin Wind Farm Project	Noted
17 January 2023	To: Chrissy Grant, Scott Buchanan, Alicia Haines	Letter regarding circulation of false and misleading information about Cairns Native Title	Noted

	From: Anne English, Atherton Tablelands Law		
20 January 2023	To: Anne English, Atherton Tablelands Law From: Tim Wong, Acting Executive Director, WTMA	Response to letter regarding the circulation of false and misleading information about Cairns Native Title	Noted
22 February 2023	To: Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP From: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board	Regarding the WTMA Board statement on windfarm development adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Noted
22 February 2023	To: Hon Michael de Brenni MP From: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board	Regarding the WTMA Board statement on windfarm development adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Noted
22 February 2023	To: Hon Chris Bowen MP From: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board	Regarding the WTMA Board statement on windfarm development adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Noted
22 February 2023	To: Hon Linda Burney MP From: Chrissy Grant, Chair, WTMA Board	Regarding the WTMA Board statement on windfarm development adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Noted

## Resolution

The Board **Noted** the significant correspondence report.

## 4. Strategic issues

### 4.1 Interim Operational Review of Strategic Plan 2020-2030

Tim Wong spoke to Board Paper 4.1:

- An interim internal operational review of the Authority's Strategic Plan, led by Ekos Logic Consulting Network is underway.
- The Strategic Plan will have a formal, comprehensive, and full mid-term review in 2025 with extensive external consultation. This interim internal operational review is required to refine and align activities. Limited consultation will be conducted with this review by Ekos Logic Consulting Network.
- The review also aligns and will inform the Authority's Five-Year Business Strategy (2023-2028), as well as the Communications Strategy that is currently being drafted.

***Simon Towle and Crag Carttling – Ekos Logic Consulting Network presented an update to the Review of the Wet Tropics Management Authority Strategic Plan 2020-2030 to the Directors. Key point included:***

- Project Scope: start 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and finish 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Internal consultation and engagement are underway (Board, relevant staff, committees). Limited external stakeholders will also be consulted. The review aims to:
  - Review high-level strategy areas and supporting actions.
  - Indicate what role the Authority has played in achieving outcomes.
  - Measure the success and impact in delivery of the Strategic Plan against indicators.
  - Identify where there may be a need to realign to focus on its core business.
  - Identify opportunities for integration of proposed actions.
  - Identify new opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

- Provide recommendations that inform the development of the five (5) year Business Strategy (2023-2028), including key performance indicators, and the delivery of the Strategic Plan
- Ekos Logic Consulting Network has submitted a project plan including methodology.
- Initial observations and opportunities were presented.
- Comments and discussions included: how to leverage the Authority's role in linking science, management, and stakeholder groups; focussing the Authority's efforts to key activities / actions; refining performance indicators for quantification and measurement; and broader stakeholder engagement.

#### Actions:

- Ekos through Sean McNamara will consult with the Board, through a series of one-on-one sessions. Ekos will provide questions for the Board in advance.
- Ellen Weber will recommend names of both outgoing and incoming CCC and SAC members for engagement during the review process and will provide these names to Ekos Logic Consulting Network and the Board

#### **Resolution**

##### **The Board:**

- **Endorsed** the scope and intent for the review of the implementation of the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030.
- **Notes** the presentation on progress from the project team, including findings to date and proposed next steps.

## **4.2 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum Outcomes**

Alicia Haines spoke to Board paper 4.2.

- The format of 2022 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum included changes made due to feedback from the previous meeting to ensure more participation. This format allowed for some great guest speakers, finding out what others are doing on Country and involvement of young people.
- The concurrent sessions did provide some challenges and there was a reduced engagement from partners compared to 2022, including a decline in attendance by Rainforest Aboriginal people. The Authority will look at how to obtain further and additional engagement from partners and stakeholders for the 2023 forum.
- Suggestions to obtain further and additional engagement from partners and stakeholders for the 2023 forum included:
  - hold the forum during the week, rather than on the weekend.
  - changing the time of year.
  - stronger engagement with PBCs and organisations prior to the meeting, and more senior engagement.
  - ensuring that the messaging of the forum's organisation and objectives is clear, and
- It was identified that the 2022 resolutions were mostly regarding the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT) rather than relating directly to the Authority's business.
- The 2022 draft Outcomes Report will be presented and endorsed at the 2023 forum.
- Congratulated Alicia Haines the fantastic job in delivering the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum 2022. The Authority received positive feedback that previous suggestions on the format of the Forum was taken on board.

#### **Resolution**

## The Board

- **Noted** the Draft 2022 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum Outcomes
- **Noted** the resolutions carried at the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum

### 4.3 Cultural Landscapes Hub Project / Bama Country and Culture Project

Alicia Haines spoke to Board paper 4.3:

- Steering Committee has changed name of the project from Cultural Landscape Hub Project to Bama Country and Culture Project.
- The project brings the voices of the Rainforest Aboriginal groups to the forefront to educate and enhance awareness of the Indigenous Heritage Values included on the National Heritage list in 2012 and the rich Cultural landscape of the World Heritage Area.
- The aim of the project is to:
  - Promote best practice principles for engagement and access to Country.
  - Increase the understanding of the Custodial responsibilities held by Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.
  - Improve roles and aspirations in ongoing management and presentation of the World Heritage Area.
  - To complement and develop the “Respecting Aboriginal Cultures” module for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides Program and support the Sustainable Tourism Plan.
- New Senior Project Officer Margaret Ross-Kelly commenced in November 2022.
- This project is led by Steering Committee with nine (9) members to meet four (4) times over the project term. Alisa Lively is the Chair of the committee.
- A draft Terms of Reference has been developed and was endorsed at the first Steering Committee meeting on 9 February 2023.
- The team has begun to engage with potential providers, with the project delivered in three (3) key phases:
  - Consultation: we will consult with all Rainforest Aboriginal groups and stakeholders throughout the Wet Tropics region. This has commenced.
  - Design: we will work with consultants and the Steering Committee to develop a concept plan to present at a Regional Workshop in July 2023.
  - Launch: Go live with the Bama Country and Culture Map in June 2024.
- Project Timeline:
  - Feb – April 2023 - Consultation and engage expertise support.
  - May 2023 – Draft concept delivered.
  - July 2023 – Regional Workshop.
  - Sept – Dec 2023 – Stage 2 consultations with draft concept plan and Steering Committee approval.
  - Jan – Mar 2024 – Commence filming and engage expertise support.
  - Apr – May 2024 – Development of online products and learning materials.
  - Jun 2024 – Product launch.
- Engagement Strategy includes Aboriginal groups in the northern, central, tablelands and southern regions, however consultation will be broader than just the PBCs. The team will also engage with agencies such as DES, QPWS&P, Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) and DTIS.
- During the consultation period the team will be asking Rainforest Aboriginal People and groups what stories they would like to share as part of this project.

- The team will ensure the Indigenous Heritage Values included on the National Heritage list are included as that is part of the purpose of this project.
- Feedback from Rainforest Aboriginal groups and the Steering Committee so far has been fantastic. Groups are already thinking about the stories they would like to share including stories on how to look after Country.
- Comments included a discussion of how to use the products in the field, and extending the work to a broader audience, for example, incoming airline video.

#### Resolution

The Board **Noted** the Cultural Landscapes Hub presentation.

#### 4.4 Cassowary Awards

Phoebe Kinley spoke to Board Paper 4.4:

- Next Cassowary Awards will be the 20<sup>th</sup> event, it is an opportunity for a refresh.
- The 19<sup>th</sup>/2022 Awards experienced a decline in community engagement as evidenced by lack of nominations, follow up nominees for RSVP, lack of media coverage etc.
- A review and refresh of the Cassowary Awards would encompass the categories, inclusivity of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and branding.
- Extending the time from 18 months to 24 months will give potential nominees enough time for completion or successes in their projects. It will also reduce the resourcing pressures on the Authority.
- It is a one-of-a-kind event; everyone enjoys the event on the night however not a lot of buy in from community at the moment.
- Discussions included: how to better promote the awards; supporting the extending of the awards to 24 months; SAC / CCC consultation in the review process; and maintaining momentum through social media stories regarding winners.

#### Resolution

The Board:

- **Approved** extending the occurrence of the Cassowary Awards from 18 to 24 months.
- **Approved** review and rebranding of the Cassowary Awards including making it more inclusive of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.

#### 4.5 Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021-2031 Update

Tamara Siemionow spoke to Board paper 4.5:

- The Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan 2021-2031 fulfills Strategy Four (4) which was funded through Australian Heritage Grant Program and is implemented through 6 goals. An update on the 6 Goals was provided:
- Goal 1. Respect for Country and People: Progress made through the Wet Tropics Cultural Landscapes project (Bama Country and Culture Project), and through the Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides (WTWHG).
- Goal 2. Rainforest Aboriginal tourism aspirations: The Authority's staff conducted the following actions to support Goal 2: participated in early consultations and provided input into the DES's draft Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas; participated in a workshop to inform DTIS on the development of a tourism industry First Nations Relationships Guide; provided input into DES's First Nations World Heritage Strategy; monthly attendance and project updates at the TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster Group(IECG) meetings; input also provided on the TNQ First Nations Tourism Action Plan along with aligned priority actions from the Plan, and presented the WTWHG at the



Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum highlighting capacity building opportunities for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.

- Goal 3. Building awareness through consistent messaging and branding: One of the most impactful activities the Authority has been providing input on is with Tourism and Events Qld World Heritage Area Toolkit. This is still to be released and the Authority has been providing support.
- Goal 4. Increased community involvement and advocacy: Optimising community participation through the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Guides Program.
- Goal 5. Well trained, professional tour guides. The Authority is implementing the WTWHG project, and Tamara provided an update on Milestones that have been achieved and are ongoing, as well as the brand strategy. The project is well underway, with an online launch planned for the end of July 2023.
- Goal 6. Collaborative Visitor Management. Authority staff have continued activities with stakeholders including: QPWS&P to ensure appropriate planning of approved infrastructure projects and interpretive products continues to enhance the presentation of the WTWHG; the Interagency Working Group –Ecotourism Projects meetings with key partners agencies; and being an active member of Australia’s Tourism and Parks Agencies Forum (TAPAF).
- Comments and discussion included: a congratulation for the fantastic amount of work that had been achieved since the last update; how this project can be used as an exemplar/ pilot program so that DES and Tourism and TEQ can adapt to their regions; A thank you to DTIS for allowing the Wet Tropics Management Authority to provide significant input into the Tourism Towards 2032 Strategy which will increase the branding of World Heritage across Queensland.

Actions:

- Tamara to send a copy of the draft Road Map 2021-2026 to Sally and the Board (after the ED’s review)

## Resolution

The Board **Noted** the update of the Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan update.

### **4.6 Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 (Qld) Amendments**

Julie Colman spoke to Board paper 4.6:

- The *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* proposed amendments are scheduled for three (3) stages.
  - Stage 1: Has been passed, but not all amendments have been yet enacted as they start by proclamation. This means we have time to make consequential changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan to ensure the two (2) documents are aligned in terms of terminology.
  - Stage 2: Have been introduced to parliament, scheduled for consideration in February 2023, now on notice sittings starting on 14 March 2023. The most significant amendment is removing any possible exemption for mining to occur in the World Heritage Area.
  - Stage 3: Tentatively have a vehicle for these amendments however will depend on speed and complexity. These are currently being worked on.
- Advice received from the DES litigation unit included recommendations regarding:
  - Including an Act purpose to mitigate any clarity issues and to contemporise the format.
  - World Heritage Areas should be provided a higher status than general conservation estates (to recognise the Outstanding Universal Values) and therefore the maximum penalty units should be higher/raised to more than general conservation estates such as National Parks.



- Removing the limit on maximum penalty units, the Magistrate should be able to set the penalty based on the information at hand.
- There be an opportunity for further consultation, including with the Commonwealth to ensure the amendments align with other legislation including Commonwealth legislation.

## Resolution

### The Board

- **Noted** the additional matters to be considered under the compliance and enforcement review of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993
- **Noted** the status of the three (3) sets of amendments to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993.

## 5. Other business

### 5.1 Other Business:

- Walking Trail Strategy 2001. In response to the CCC recommendation, a discussion paper will be presented at Board Meeting 123, including consideration of removing the strategy.
- A number of inaccurate reports have been removed from the website. However, there are more than 1,000 pages with links that are still searchable, and this poses an issue of misinformation.

#### Actions:

- Tim Wong and Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez to audit of existing policies, strategies, and documents (including the Walking Trail Strategy 2001) and provide a discussion paper recommending the removal of particular documents for consideration at Board Meeting 123.

### 5.2 Board Communique:

## Resolution

The Board **Approved** the Communique for Board Meeting 122.

## Meeting Close

Board Meeting 122 closed at 4:30pm.



Ms Christine T Grant  
Chair  
10/03/2023