
Previous Minutes Board Meeting 124

In Attendance

Board Directors

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

Observers

Julia Playford	Executive Director, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, DES
Carol Kinnaird	Principal Ranger Coastal Tropics, QPWS Northern Region, DES
Erin Dampney	Director, First Nations Heritage Section, DCCEEW
Angela Siggery	Director, World Heritage Unit, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, DES

WTMA Staff

Saskia Salmeron-Rodriguez	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Alicia Haines	Principal Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Ellen Weber	Senior Scientist, Climate Initiatives
Jodie Thomas	Senior Media and Communications Officer
Phoebe Kinley	Principal Project Officer, Presentation and Engagement
Chris Clerc	Senior Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation
Sean McNamara	Principal Advisor

Others

Wendy Brooksby	WTMA (minute taker)
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1. Introduction

1.1. Chair's welcome and introduction

The Chair, Ms Chrissy Grant, acknowledged the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and the Yirrganydji Traditional Owners of the Cairns area, 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 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.

The chair welcomed William Enoch-Tranby, to the meeting as the newly appointed Director and noted that the Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) was now complete with all positions filled. The Board was also advised that the agenda changes discussed at the last meeting have been implemented for this meeting.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Lucy Karger	Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Shane Dagwell	Heritage officer, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
Martin Dallen	Assistant Director, Heritage Projects Section, DCCEEW
James Newman	Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests, QPWS&P, DES
Matt Brien	Regional Director, Northern Region, QPWS&P

1.3. Conflicts of interest

The Chair advised that Sally Driml would take over as acting Chair for Agenda item 3.3 Eastern Kuku Yalanji, Return to Country (for Noting) due to the Chair's connection with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples group. While she would remain present in the room, Ms Grant would not take part in any debate on the item.

2. Reports

2.1 Chair's Report

Since the June meeting the Chair has:

- presented at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (IATSIS) summit in Perth in June speaking on the Joint management arrangements with QPWS&P and the progress being made on the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Return to Country
- met with Justin Mohamad, Australia's Inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People, Department of Tourism Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). From the meeting Mr Mohamad took away some ideas on "Truth Telling through Tourism" and the involvement and contribution of Indigenous Peoples in World Heritage processes and systems
- took part in a full day Governance training session with the Board of Directors of the Authority on 13 July 2023
- attended a Great Barrier Reef workshop regarding on the Reef Trust Partnership
- participated in the recent planning meeting of the Joint Wet Tropics Management Authority and Terrain NRM Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC), and was involved in promoting the expressions of interest for the IAC to communities, ranger groups and other suitable applicants
- noted Minister Plibersek's engagement with the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (the YCA program), with a site visit and detection dog demonstration
- contributed to the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Cultural Values Management Plan
- continued discussions with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM around including the Indigenous values in World Heritage listings and planning for an International Workshop to examine the criteria used by ICOMOS (Cultural values) and IUCN (Natural values) in the assessment of Indigenous Values across Natural and Cultural Landscapes. The International Experts' Workshop will be hosted by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH) in Geneva in January 2024, and
- worked with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to review and update the management manual for World Heritage.

Looking forward, Ms Grant:

- will meet with Minister Linard in her role as Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, on 29 August 2023
- will attend the ICOMOS General Assembly 1- 9 September 2023 in Sydney

- has met several times with DCCEEW in preparation for attendance at the 45th session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting 10-25 Sept 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the Chair's report.

2.2 Executive Director's Report

Report for noting

The Executive Director updated the Board on recent staffing changes including the engagement of a new Sugar Liaison Officer and a Community Engagement Officer in the YCA program. A new Community Engagement Officer has joined the World Heritage Connection team and the Senior Project Officer has left to take up a role in the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS).

In the YCA program there has been a recent and large new infestation requiring a considerable effort in delimiting the area and engaging with local residents. The YCA program team have also been supporting both Townsville and the Whitsundays eradication taskforces with training outreach activities.

The Restoration Alliance has formed an Interim Steering Group (ISG), and recently held restoration field days in the Daintree. These were very productive in developing a shared understanding and a foundation for collaboration.

A recent draft report on the carbon sequestration for the Wet Tropics has resulted in an invitation by the Director General of the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to present the information in Brisbane, and a joint conference paper by Terrain NRM, James Cook University (JCU) and the Authority has been accepted to present at the Australian Land and Conservation Alliance Conference (16-18 October, Canberra).

Mr Buchanan advised the Board that he has written to the Deputy Director General informing him of the commencement of the review and variation of the Partnership agreement with QPWS&P. The key points for the Authority are:

- the Partnership Agreement is embedded and aligned with the deliverables of the new five-year business strategy
- improved focus on outcomes and effectiveness of the partnership between the two organisations, and improved accountability
- outcomes will support the Authority to meet its legal and other obligations through delivery of actions in the Partnership Agreement
- increased visibility of funded positions and activities under the Partnership Agreement, with a view to improved reporting on the Funding Agreement.

Mr Buchanan discussed the significant changes being considered by the State in its review of Code 23 of the Windfarm development and the associated Planning Guidance. Mr Wong noted that the Commonwealth have acknowledged the environmental impacts and the complexity of the issues surrounding the development of windfarms and have established a new area in the Department.

In relation to the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) reforms its understood that the policy is being finalised for an exposure draft which may be ready by the end of the year for consultation.

The Executive Director provided a full budget report to the Board at agenda item 3.1 Annual Plan and Budget 2023-24.

Action

Dr Driml requested that CCC be informed when EPBC review comments can be provided.

Resolution

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

2.3 Previous Minutes —Board Meeting 123

Resolution

The Board *endorsed* the minutes for Board Meeting 123 without change.

3.0 Strategic Issues

3.1 Annual Business Plan and Budget 2023-24 – Scott Buchanan

Paper for Approval : 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Mr Buchanan introduced the Authority's Annual Business Plan and detailed the activity planning linked to the budget allocations. He took the Board through the various strategies and the activities proposed. Discussions included issues and risks, such as, the impact of fixed staffing and operational costs in an environment of high inflation. Staffing costs alone will increase this financial year by 7%. Mr Buchanan noted that the State Government has agreed to support the Authority by covering the costs of the accommodation lease and insurance for this year which will provide \$155,000 to the budget.

The Annual Business Plan will be linked to the 5-Year Business Strategy, the development of which has been delayed until the finalisation of the Strategic Plan Review. These two key documents are guided by the funding agreement between the Commonwealth and State governments.

A new feature of the 2023-24 Annual Business Plan is the inclusion of 'Priority Actions'. These actions include consideration of the Board's priorities for 2021-24, in the context of business as usual (BAU) operations of the Authority. This approach will make reporting more effective and align budget expenditure with key annual deliverables against the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan and the 5-year business strategy.

Discussion

The Board discussed and explored:

- The impact and risks of the 7% salary increase and inflation on the 5-year fixed funding allocation
- Strategy 5 (Minimise Impacts) in terms of the BAU (Business as Usual) services included such as:
 - Review of policy, legislation, regional plans and research that impacts the Area
 - Permitting and compliance, and improvements to spatial mapping system
 - Ongoing input into mitigating windfarm impacts on the World Heritage Area
- Issue of threatened species under Strategy 1.4 – the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has requested clarity on the 'Priority Place' approach, and the alignment with threatened species planning:
 - Ms Dampney advised that it is her understanding that the definition of a Priority place is open to provide latitude and scope

- Mr Buchanan indicated the opportunity to take leadership and to facilitate the process for the Area, which is also of interest to Terrain NRM, James Cook University, and QPWS&P.
- The Authority is not eligible to apply for the 'ecosystem ' or 'species specific' funding but can play a valuable role through partnering and coordinating across groups to reduce negative impacts of competition in that space.

Action: Business Manager to provide the Board with the breakdown of funding sources and funding by project.

Resolution

The Board **endorsed** the Authority's 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and budget.

3.2 Strategic Plan Review – report and discussion – Tim Wong

Paper for discussion

Mr Wong provided a status update on the Strategic Plan review which:

- outlined the issues related to the final report prepared by EKOS – the Authority requested EKOS revise the final report.
- provided a marked-up response of the comments from the management group on the final report
- discussed expectations with consultants who have agreed to provide a redraft by 18 August 2023 and a final by the 25 August 2023
- identified the specific deliverables required in the redraft including applied analysis with a table of recommendations and the summary of issues
- advised the Board that they will have an opportunity to review the redrafted review report, with a short turnaround time between 18 and 25 August.
- The Authority will undertake a workshopping process to explore the issues and recommendations from the review and to inform the 5-year Business Strategy development
- The workshop process is expected to deliver some areas for improvement in integration across the Authority, to focus on delivering programs and projects rather than individual actions, and to inform the scoping of the communications strategy, which may include working on an elevator pitch.

Dr Driml suggested including benefits and conditions that support funding pitches in the scoping of the communications strategy given the funding imperatives the Authority is facing.

Actions:

- Distribute the 2012 Marketing document related to the 2008 Strategic Plan to Board members.
- Circulate the redrafted Strategic Plan Review report for comment by the Board

Resolution

The Board **noted** the draft report from EKOS Consulting (Attachment 3.2.1), the Authority's feedback to EKOS on the draft report (Attachment 3.2.1) and the proposed steps to finalise the draft report.

3.3 Eastern Kuku Yalanji ‘Return to Country Program’ – Chris Clerc

Paper for noting:

The Chair noted that no decision is identified for this agenda item, and that she would not be participating in the discussion. Ms Grant then handed over the meeting to Dr Driml to chair this item. The item discusses matters impacting the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People which presents a conflict of interest for Ms Grant.

Mr Clerc was introduced, and acknowledged the work done in 2022 that forms the basis of the project going forward and provided that:

- The Authority was successful in obtaining funding through the 2022/23 Qld Government budget process to undertake critical planning to allow Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples to return to Country
- This project is funded for 2 years (1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025) and is a collaboration between Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Jabalbina), the Authority, and DES
- The project will result in a Community Development Plan (CDP) to guide return to Country for Eastern Kuku Yalanji People’s across 16,000ha of Aboriginal Freehold lands in the World Heritage Area known as Pink Zone.

Mr Clerc provided the Board with a map and description of the locations within the World Heritage Area identifying the possible living areas and the risk assessment of those areas, noting the complexity of work.

Risks identified

- If a strategic forward planning approach to managing opportunity for Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples to return to Country does not proceed there is a significant legal, reputational, and unknown financial risk to the Authority and the State.
- Further potential risks and mitigation actions are detailed in Attachment 3.3.1.

Mr Clerc asked the Board to consider the identified risks and mitigations and welcomed any feedback the Board’s discretion.

Discussion

Discussion included:

- the uniqueness of the project, in term of whether return to Country planning in similar context had occurred before in Australia
- forming strong partnerships with Councils has been an important part of the success of the project to this point leading to the development of a master plan
- consultation with key stakeholders continues to occur with Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples, Jabalbina, DES, the Queensland Department of Resources, the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Local Governments (Douglas Shire Council, Cook Shire Council, Wujal Wujal Shire Council), and the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the successful Queensland funding bid to deliver ‘Return to Country’ planning for Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples and the next steps and risks to delivering the project.

3.4 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Update – Alicia Haines

Paper for noting

Ms Grant resumed the Chair and Ms Haines updated the Board on three areas of work:

- The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum
- The Indigenous Advisory Committee
- The Bama Country and Culture Project Workshop

Arrangements for the the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ forum to be held at Ridges and facilitated by Mr Barry Hunter are well underway and there is a strong response with participants continuing to apply. The agenda for the forum will be available in early September. The Board noted the confirmed dates for the event.

The work on the establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) has resulted in limited submissions to date (5 expressions of interest). The decision to take the IAC establishment to the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Forum to seek their support, may increase awareness of the IAC and provide confidence amongst prospective committee members to apply. The IAC has already been endorsed by the Authority and by Terrain NRM, so this is an opportunity to improve communication and to clarify the role of the IAC.

Ms Haines advised the Board of changed arrangements for the Bama Country and Culture Project, accommodating the departure of the Senior Project Manager to take up a position with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. The Authority will work collaboratively, through a partnership agreement with Sharing Stories Foundation (the Foundation) who are experienced project managers. The Foundation will take on the filming and community engagement aspects, while the Authority will continue to manage the forum and steering committee, provide a cultural advisor when needed and meet the project reporting requirements. Ms Haines will be negotiating the ICIP (Indigenous Culture Intellectual Property) agreements, and the Foundation will deliver the branding package and the delivery of the final story. The upcoming workshop is expected to deliver video themes and content, and Marrawah Law will provide practical examples and guidance on using Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) agreements.

Discussion:

The board spent some time in discussion on the alignment of the IAC and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT). A closed meeting with RAPTT was proposed. While no agenda had been drafted, the purpose of the meeting would be to cover a broad range of issues and reflections, and to ensure that the members are informed about the IAC to ensure that there is a broad understanding about the different roles and responsibilities of the two groups.

Resolution

The Board:

noted the confirmed date and venue for the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Regional Forum on 11-13 October 2023.

noted the establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC).

noted the Bama Country and Culture Project workshop on 30 August 2023.

3.5 Communications Strategy Development Plan – Phoebe Kinley

Paper for noting

Ms Grant welcomed Ms Jodie Thomas as an observer to the meeting. Ms Rodriguez-Salmeron introduced Ms Thomas as a valued member of the World Heritage Connections team who has been providing writing, editing and document production services to the Authority for seven years.

Ms Kinley provided an overview of the paper outlining the proposed steps in the development of the communications strategy to support the Authority's strategic plan objectives and priority projects. The communications strategy needs to:

- utilise all forms of communication to sell the value of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and our role and responsibility in managing the Area
- support securing sustainable ongoing funding to enable the Authority to deliver on its international obligations

The proposed process includes developing a scope of works and draft project plan, to be informed by recommendations from the Strategic review report (by EKOS), directions from the Board and advisory committees, and outcomes from a Management Forum workshop conducted in 2021. The scope will also acknowledge the legislative obligations under the World Heritage Convention and *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*.

The Board was informed that an external contractor to help draft the Communications strategy is expected to be on board by 30 September and the project brief delivered by 31 December 2023. Funding of \$40,000 has been allocated.

Discussion

Discussion included how to lower the risk of a possible poor outcome from the consultancy. The responses included establishing a clear scope of works and deliverables and including regular touch points over the strategy development phase. A staff workshop is planned in early October and a project steering committee is proposed to ensure that the focus remains on delivering an effective strategy.

Ms Driml noted that the CCC members are keenly interested in communications that focus on informing and motivating the community to practical actions aligned with the World Heritage values.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the proposed steps forward for the development of a new communications strategy.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Advisory Committee Reports

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) - Dr Sally Driml

Report for noting

Dr Driml:

- provided a written report from the CCC meeting held on 31 July 2023
- outlined that the report reflects the community of views from the CCC members in a list form – the list arose from an extended discussion on the priority issue of climate change

- advised that, as a group, the CCC has a focus on community views, needs and actions, recognising that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) focusses on research related to the impacts of climate change on threatened species
- identified that raising community awareness of threats to the Wet Tropics, communicating it in a positive way, and providing guidance on how community can make a positive difference is a key focus for the group in the coming year.

Dr Driml also noted that the CCC is very keen to be involved in any relevant policy reviews and actions to

- capture community attention by providing the information about species loss using flagship species
- provide positive factual news and actions people can take
- encourage youth engagement
- create simple communications with a call to action about heat threats to endangered species
- link into the Authority's communication strategy, and
- perhaps produce a regular status report on 10 major issues or a short snapshot report to go out to the community.

Suggestions from the Committee also spoke to engaging in partnerships such as with the Rural Fire Service to communicate messages about fire management and building a community of practice across different World Heritage Areas through networking with their committees. Additionally, Dr Driml passed on Ms Lucy Graham's thanks to the Board for the support provided by the Authority and particularly by Mr Terry Carmichael for the spectacled flying fox threatened species recovery.

Discussion

The Board discussed the following issues arising from Dr Driml's report:

- concern about ongoing funding for maintenance of the Wangetti Trail
- consideration of the Eastern Forests as a 'Priority Place'
- World Heritage properties (including K'gari) piloting the CSIRO Climate Change Toolkit, and
- comments from CCC members about the impact of onerous tendering processes on small groups.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) – Adjunct Professor Stephen Williams

Mr Williams advised that there had not been a SAC meeting since the last Board meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 28 August 2023.

The agenda may include a review of the State of the Wet Tropics Report – focussing on threatened species, establishing a working group from the Committee to focus on climate change and the impact on threatened species, and considering a region-based model rather than focussing on the impact on individual threatened species (nominating an upland ecosystem as a threatened ecosystem).

Mr Williams reported that the vacancy for the Indigenous male member of SAC has not yet been filled.

Discussion

Ellen Weber announced the grants round open for the 110 threatened species (4 species are in the Wet Tropics) – closing 7 September (\$224m over 4 years).

Resolution

The Board *noted* the CCC and SAC reports.

4.2 Directors' issues

Dr Sally Driml

Dr Sally Driml provided the following update and information:

- Tourism week will be held in Cairns for the first time in November 22, 23 and 24 November. This includes Destination Queensland, Destination IQ (Indigenous Tourism), and Tourism awards on the Friday night.
- ongoing work with National Parks Association Queensland identifying ecosystem service values from Queensland National Parks.

Ailsa Lively

Ms Lively provided the following update:

- attended the BCC steering committee meeting on 16 June, and noted upcoming meetings
- appointed to advisory committee for Gunggandji administration.

Stephen Williams

Dr Stephen Williams provided a brief update with no additional updates beyond the SAC report.

Robin Clark

Ms Clark provided the following update:

- met with Jacinta Reddan, the new Chair of Advance Cairns. Discussion included the FNQ Regional Plan, the Wet Tropics and Blue-Green economy, and international opportunities for investing in the Wet Tropics.
- A guideline for urban heat impacts for Council's is underway and should be released shortly.
- State Planning Department is looking to incorporate heat as a state interest in the State Planning Policy

William Enoch-Tranby

Willie provided an update on the Queensland Tourism Awards. Has reached out to QTIC and Rhonda Appo who is the Indigenous Program Manager. In the next couple of weeks will be arranging meetings to discuss attendance and contact with QTIC and Tourism Australia (TA). Willie will focus on building our Wet Tropics brand into the tourism sector.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the Directors' reports.

4.3 Commonwealth Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Erin Dampney

Paper: Report for noting

Ms Dampney provided her report with the Board papers which was acknowledged by the Directors as very helpful and a contribution to a deeper understanding and discussion during the meeting.

In addition to the report, Ms Dampney provided the following updated information

- Draft decisions for 45COM World Heritage Meeting. Draft decisions include
 - Great Barrier Reef to not be added to the endangered list

- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia not to be added to the endangered list, and an updated report on State of Conservation will be submitted by 1 December 2023 for consideration at 46COM
- Greater Blue Mountains will also not be added, and an updated report on State of Conservation will be submitted by 1 December 2023 for consideration at 46COM.

Discussion included the Deloitte report on economic and social values / scope of ecosystem values assessment.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the Commonwealth Government report.

4.4 Queensland Department reports

Department of Environment and Science

Ms Siggery and Dr Playford provided the following update:

Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh Section)

- Handback of Boodjamulla National Park, including Riversleigh World Heritage Area, was held on 23 June with leaseback to the Queensland Government in perpetuity.
- The Riversleigh World Heritage Advisory Committee's (RWHAC) Three-Year Plan is being finalised for endorsement at the September meeting.
- the unprecedented weather event in Northwest Qld caused record flooding, mass evacuation and extensive damage to both nature and infrastructure. Boodjamulla NP and Riversleigh are closed.
- The Waanyi's Riversleigh Fossil Dreaming Project has commenced with the establishment of a Working group and the first stage anthropologist meeting with Waanyi in late July.

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Queensland Section)

- The first meeting of the Gondwana World Heritage Advisory Committee (GHWAC) is expected to be held on country in November 2023 with new Chair Ro Hill
- Gondwana Cultural Values Assessment Project (Australian Heritage Grant) commenced 1 July with completion by the end of 2024
- Gondwana Climate Adaptation Plan project (Australian Heritage Grant) has commenced. This project will deliver a climate adaptation plan for the Queensland section
- Learnings from the K'gari Climate Adaptation Project will be captured and applied to the Gondwana Project as appropriate, with Wet Tropics advice and input will be requested at the appropriate time.

Cape York World Heritage

- This is a state and federal government election commitment, and a further update will be made at the next Board meeting.

Interpretation

- The World Heritage Unit (WHU) secured \$0.8M over three years to develop and deliver consistent, culturally appropriate signage across the terrestrial properties to promote the World Heritage brand and contribute to stronger interpretation of these prime tourism destinations in Queensland.
- WHU will work with QPWS&P and the Authority, and partner with Traditional Owners to deliver.

Great Barrier Reef

- There are a number of commitments made by State and Commonwealth governments
- The Australian and Queensland governments have committed \$160M to support fishers to significantly reduce net fishing and other high risk fishing activities impacting the Reef, ensuring the Great Barrier Reef is gillnet free by mid-2027
- The Queensland Government has purchased leases for St Bees Island and Long Island Broad Sound as part of the government's \$262.5M to expand and create new protected areas
- Reef regional waterway partnerships with the release of all five regional report cards. The reports cover monitoring undertaken between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022
- A statutory review of the Reef Protection Regulations commenced in February 2023. The Department of Environment and Science has engaged an independent contractor, Ernst and Young (EY), to engage with peak agricultural, conservation and regional natural resource management organisations, partners and producers.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships

Ms Kinnaird provided a comprehensive report on the activities of the work being undertaken by QPWS&P in the Northern Regions including:

- strategic fire management activities with fires risk period now declared
- planned burning has been continued in Ingham, Cairns, McAlister Range, and Gordonvale area, with rain impacting on planned burns in the Innisfail area. Tablelands planned burns are about to commence within a small suitability window
- noting the great support from Traditional Owners Peoples in the planned burns
- QPWS&P rangers travelled to Alberta, Canada to support firefighting efforts, with valuable experiences gained
- planned burning in blue banksia and montane communities has been ongoing
- some resources have been temporarily provided to South East Queensland for fire related actions
- there has been significant amount of fire training being done across multiple work roles in preparation for the expected demand of the upcoming fire season
- compliance activities – a quarterly compliance report has been provided to the Authority. Cameras have been used to identify misuse and unauthorised entry to park areas resulting in damage to trails, people bringing dogs into parks, and illegal dumping of rubbish. Addressing unauthorised tracks is being prioritised
- There is an increase in illegal camping in parks, and QPWS&P is dealing with this matter
- Wallaman falls: QPWS&P have been engaging with the Warrgamay people regarding the cultural significance of the site and what Warrgamay would like to do in terms of infrastructure and restricted areas. QPWS&P has briefed the Authority and is holding discussions with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

General discussion included:

- Mr Buchanan commended the work done by Ms Kinnaird in the extensive consultation with the Warrgamay women that resulted in a great outcome for the protection of sacred sites and acknowledgement of Cultural Heritage
- Ms Salmeron-Rodriques thanked Ms Kinnaird and QPWS&P for their engagement with the Authority regarding the Values Based Management Planning for National Parks within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- High altitude species adaptation to climate change.

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

The Executive Director and Mr Wong presented the report in absentia for Bruce Alzeddin, Project Manager, Policy Partnerships and Events, DTIS. Mr Alzeddin was representing DTIS as Ms Gale Obrien, the previous DTIS representative has moved to Trade and Investment Queensland.

The presentation and discussion included the proposed route for the Wangetti Trail from Palm Cove to Ellis Beach, associated assessments under EPBC Act, and the cultural heritage aspects of the site. The area is a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement Area, with the trail passing through potentially sensitive areas.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the State Government reports.

5.0 Actions arising and significant correspondence

5.1 Actions arising – Scott Buchanan

The Executive Director spoke to the actions arising, noting planning for the development of the communications strategy and ongoing work regarding the ethical funding guidelines.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the completion of all actions arising from previous meetings.

5.2 Significant correspondence – Chrissy Grant

Significant correspondence was provided to the Board members for perusal and comment. Noteworthy correspondence included correspondence from Minister Linard regarding the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Statement on Wind Farms and the finalisation of the funding agreement for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

Resolution

The Board *noted* the significant correspondence report.

5.3 Board self-assessment – Chrissy Grant

The Chair reminded the Board of the background to include Board self-assessment arising from the governance training exercise. The Board agreed that the new format worked well and appreciated the benefits of the submission of observer / government department reports in advance, scheduling a Board closed session at every meeting, the provision of the full set of reports provided two weeks in advance, and flexibility of the process for observers. The Board thanked Sean for organizing the new format.

The Executive Director thanked the observers for their support and attendance and their contributions to discussions throughout the meeting. The provision of departmental reports prior to the meeting.

6.0 Other business

PSC Board Diversity Surveys were completed.

6.1 Board Communique

Resolution

The Board **approved** the Communique for Board meeting # 124.

Meeting Close

Board Meeting #124 opened at 11.06am and closed at 3.30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine T. Grant." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ms Christine T Grant

Chair

7 November 2023