



**Board Meeting No. 98**

**1 December 2016**

**Approved Minutes**

*Rainforest Aboriginal Engagement in the Wet  
Tropics Cultural Landscape (9.30am to 12.30am)*

*Creative Resourcing (1.45pm to 4pm)*

**Board directors**

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Ms Leah Talbot	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

**WTMA officers**

Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, Aboriginal Partnerships and Communities
Ms Ellen Weber	Executive Officer
Mr Campbell Clarke	Principal Planner (item 2.1)

**Guests**

Mr Vince Mundraby	Chair, Chair, Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples' PBC Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (item 2.1)
Mr Bruce White	Project Support Officer, Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples' PBC Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (item 2.1).

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Chairs Welcome**

The Chair Leslie Shirreffs opened the meeting at 9.20am and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging. The Chair welcomed the opportunity for directors to talk about Aboriginal culture and some of the lore and law surrounding contemporary strategic Indigenous land management and governance issues.

## 2.0 Rainforest Aboriginal Engagement in the Wet Tropics Cultural Landscape

Rebecca Lagerroth thanked directors for the opportunity to discuss Aboriginal engagement in the Wet Tropics and acknowledged the support of director Leah Talbot particularly with respect to helping to prepare content for the learning day.

The purpose of the session is to promote recognition and understanding of good practice for integrating human rights considerations in World Heritage conservation. An information pack was provided to directors and included the following reference documents:

- a) An overview (.ppt) of the session discussion points regarding:
  - current responsibilities and WTMA board refreshed priorities (and advice from Rainforest Aboriginal People regarding key strategic areas of focus)
  - Rainforest Aboriginal governance and land interests, including Native Title, Registered Native Title Body Corporates, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, Aboriginal Corporations and cultural heritage management
  - engagement mechanisms in the Wet Tropics
  - State and National Frameworks
  - International Declarations and Conventions
  - practical ways to advance recognition and rights including economic development and sustainable development planning
  - map indicating Native Title applications and Determination Areas in the North Queensland Region (as at September 2016), and a
  - map indicating Native Title applications and Determination Areas in the Cape York Region (as at September 2016)
- b) Copy of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement (2005)
- c) Summary statement of significance of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (Indigenous Values)
- d) Community Guide to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous People
- e) ICOMOS Report – World Heritage and Rights-based Approaches (2014)
- f) a contact list of Rainforest Aboriginal groups and organisations in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and
- g) North Queensland Land Council information document – roles and responsibilities of Prescribed Body Corporates

Rebecca Lagerroth worked through these issues and directors were invited to ask questions and seek clarification as required. Some of the discussion points and/or observations included:

- the Authority is currently partner to 14 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) inside the World Heritage Area, some of these have expired and some remain in force in perpetuity
- John Courtenay sought clarification on the current status of World Heritage listing for cultural values. It was agreed that support (and resources) would be needed from State and Commonwealth agencies, as well as support the broader Rainforest Aboriginal community to progress

- engaging Rainforest Aboriginal Traditional Owners and the local communities in the stewardship of resources of their environments is reflected in the World Heritage Convention, and the Authority is legally bound to have regard to these protocols
- that given Indigenous land interests cover 87% of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the Authority should be well-informed regarding Indigenous aspirations for sustainable economic opportunities on their traditional lands and how this can be achieved whilst managing for natural (and potentially cultural) OUV
- the Authority is currently reviewing the 163 recommendations from the 1998 'Which way our cultural survival'. While good work has been made in some areas, preliminary assessment suggests that we have also regressed in other areas. Some good principles
- in 2012, the Australian Government announced the inclusion of the national indigenous heritage values as part of the existing National Heritage listing for the Wet Tropics WHA. This provides protection under the EPBC Act and the Commonwealth must use its best endeavours to encourage relevant authorities to develop and implement management plans in accordance with the National Heritage Management principles - requires initiative from the Authority and Rainforest Aboriginal people and the State to develop and agree on ways to cooperate effectively in the future management of these values
- Leah Talbot reminded directors that the Board has responsibilities, as part of managing for the Outstanding Universal value of the Area, to recognise existing and future (Native Title) rights Rainforest Aboriginal People have on their traditional lands.

Leah Talbot talked about recognition of three way governance, a fundamental component of rights, ownership and land management, and offered to share some of the results emerging from her doctoral research, which is looking at how indigenous knowledge supports indigenous governance in protected areas, comparing two World Heritage Areas, one in the Wet Tropics and the other in northern Sweden.

Leah Talbot provided a (draft) schematic to illustrate appropriate cultural, organisational and shared governance that she has developed as part of her research outcomes. Effective Indigenous governance recognizes customary roles and responsibilities, vests true decision making power in the people, and reflects the cultural values and beliefs of the communities it serves. This requires responsible and culturally skilled leadership, self-determination and empowering people towards shared governance arrangement. Her research indicates that in an equitable society there is shared governance, and that indigenous knowledge is integrated into management systems. Her research indicates there are six enabling conditions required under which Indigenous knowledge is recognised and supported by Indigenous governance systems in World Heritage Areas.

The board discussed societal governance and what this means with respect to the law (and lore) of the country, and for the rights and relationships of indigenous peoples with their country in public and private lands.

Phil Rist noted that Girringun Aboriginal Corporation invests time and energy, and valued cultural and organisational governance, through 'culturally assured processes'.

Rebecca Lagerroth finished the learning session by suggesting practical ways for the Authority to advance recognition and rights. The Authority's work is closely aligned to the rights and interests of Rainforest Aboriginal people, and we have an opportunity to be a culturally responsible lead agency in collaboration with Rainforest Aboriginal people. Priority should be given to:

- build trust with Rainforest Aboriginal people, to move towards a better understanding 'good practice' and strengthen the enabling conditions for a rights-based approach to World Heritage conservation

- strengthening the capacity of Rainforest Aboriginal people to progress their agendas on their terms, and amplifying our strengths by surrounding ourselves with people who can do what we can't do, and
- attract people and agencies, public support and investors who want to collaborate, for example by showcasing advances and success stories with a specific focus on different aspects of rights-based approaches.

The Chair thanked Rebecca Lagerroth and Leah Talbot for the time and effort to develop the content for the learning day. It was a worthwhile session and the information and discussions are valuable. Directors thanked Leah Talbot for sharing some of the preliminary findings of her PhD research.

### **Resolution**

#### *The board:*

- **noted** the Authority's legal obligation and commitment to Rainforest Aboriginal people
- **recognised** Rainforest Aboriginal responsibilities in management of the Area and
- **endorsed** aligning the way in which the Authority works with a rights-based approach.

### **Actions**

- *The Authority to provide directors with a map that shows where the Indigenous land interests are within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (including Native Title, Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Indigenous Protected Areas).*
- *Confirm the number of Indigenous Rangers that are currently working in the World Heritage Area*
- *The board offered Leah Talbot the opportunity to present the next iteration of her schematic at a future board meeting.*

## **2.1 Case study presentation - Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples' Prescribed Body Corporate (Yarrabah)**

Vince Mundraby and Bruce White were invited to address the board and provide an overview of Traditional Owner aspirations, sustainable planning initiatives and how they are engaging through local government processes currently underway at Yarrabah.

Vince Mundraby acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and thanked the Authority for the opportunity to have a chat.

Vince provided a historic overview of the (over two decades) of investment to obtain consent determination. This required working with local, state and commonwealth agencies, their legal entities and legislation, scientists, other non-government agencies and the local community.

Bruce White advised that Yarrabah is getting its first local government planning scheme. Given Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji have their Native Title determined and the Authority is currently reviewing the Wet Tropics Management Plan, there is an opportunity to align organisational investment to ensure Aboriginal traditions are recognised in all of the planning documents.

Vince Mundraby requested that the Authority investigate the possibilities, potential and feasibility of supporting, engaging and partnering registered Wet Tropic Native Title holding groups in collaborative native title business planning, master planning and Native Title development planning, and that WTMA officers work with himself and Bruce White to progress.

**Actions**

- *Consult with Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji peoples PBC Aboriginal Corporation as part of the Wet Tropics Plan Review process*
- *Write letter of thanks to Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji peoples PBC Aboriginal Corporation for presenting to the board.*



.....  
Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM  
Chair

Date 01/02/2017

**Board directors**

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Ms Leah Talbot	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

**Official Observers**

Mr Neal Muller	General Manager, Industry Development Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games
Mr Jason Jacobi	Executive Director, QPWS, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing
Mr Nick Weinert	A/Executive Director, World Heritage Management and Strategic Programs, EHP

**WTMA officers**

Dr Paul Chantrill	Principal Officer, Communities, Partnerships and Presentation
Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Mr Campbell Clarke	Principal Planning Officer (item 3.6)
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, Aboriginal Partnerships and Communities
Ms Patricia O'Lughlen	Principal Project Officer (item 3.7 )
Ms Ellen Weber	Executive Officer

**1.0 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Chair's welcome**

The chair Leslie Shirreffs opened the formal meeting at 9.02am and acknowledged the Gimuy Walubura Yidinji and the Yirrganydji Traditional Owners on whose land discussions are being held and also pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and also acknowledge the Rainforest Aboriginal people across the Wet Tropics, about whose land we will hold discussions today.

The Chair welcomed other directors Ms Anne Clarke, Mr John Courtenay, Prof Iain Gordon, Mr Phil Rist and Ms Leah Talbot to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr Jason Jacobi, Executive Director, QPWS, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing to the meeting,

The Chair welcomed Mr Neal Muller, General Manager, Industry Development Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games to the meeting.

The Chair thanked directors and staff for the previous day's learning workshop about Rainforest Aboriginal engagement in the Wet Tropics Cultural landscape and the session on creative resourcing priorities.

## 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Nick Weinert, A/Executive Director, World Heritage Management and Strategic Programs, DEHP, who was unable to attend, but will call in to provide a verbal report.

Apologies received from Joanne Nathan from the Department of Environment and Energy who was unable to attend the meeting.

## 1.3 Conflict of Interests

No conflicts identified for this meeting.

## 1.4 Previous Minutes from meeting No. 97

### **Resolution**

*The board **approved** the minutes for meeting number 97.*

## 1.5 Actions Arising

The chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting and updated on issues including:

- 95/ 2.1 - the first Rainforest Aboriginal newsletter was published. Over 1000 copies of this 4-page publication were distributed to Wet Tropics Rainforest Aboriginal communities, their organisations and partners
- 95/4.1 - Iain Gordon advised that it was planned for the Scientific Advisory Committee to consider Indigenous engagement in research activities conducted on country at their second meeting (February 2017) and that he would be able to report back to the board, and
- 97/3.6 - Scott Buchanan advised he has been given support from relevant agencies within the Regional Managers Coordinator Network (RMCN) to be involved in the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan. This same network would also be useful with work with Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji peoples PBC Aboriginal Corporation.

## **Resolution**

*The board noted the actions arising items, as updated.*

### **2.0 STANDING REPORTS**

#### **2.1 Chair's Report**

The Chair provided a verbal report to the board. It has been a busy period for the Authority and for the work of the Board. Some highlights include:

- a thank you to staff for progressing (out of session) the establishment of the SAC and CCC, and in particular, a thank you to the respective Chairs of these committees.
- acknowledgement of John Courtenay for his work in advancing our creative resourcing agenda with the industry sector. The Chair looks forward to establishing meaningful and purposeful relationships with our communities of interest and advancing research that benefits the World Heritage Area.
- the Chair recently participated in a collaborative field trip to examine opportunities for cultural tourism, which is continuing with our partners at DATSIP. John Courtenay also attended, along with relevant Authority staff and representatives from a wide range of influencing organisations, giving us a good view of the maturity of the market, and what we may be able to do to support emerging businesses.
- the Chair had a series of meetings in Brisbane with Minister Miles' chief of staff to discuss Ministerial Forum topics; a meeting with Daniel Gschwind of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council about the Board priorities, advancing tourism opportunities and creative resourcing, including user pays, and a very encouraging meeting with Minister for Education and Tourism, the Hon. Kate Jones about our priorities for advancing presentation and Aboriginal tourism proposals, particularly for the emerging Asian market. A copy of my correspondence to Minister Jones has been provided for members. This morning the Chair met with our partners in this initiative, TTNQ as well as the proposer of this initiative, Dale Mundraby of Mandingalbay Yidinji Tourism Enterprise.
- the 2015/16 State of the Wet Tropics report has been tabled in the Queensland Parliament. The report provides a sobering indication of biodiversity decline in the Wet Tropics, with many species already reduced in both distribution area and population size, despite being well managed in protected areas, and is a stark contrast to last year's report which highlighted a \$5.2billion annual economic benefit to the region. It is evident that climate change is already impacting on world heritage values, with species disappearing at lower elevations, and is exacerbated by reduced resilience from habitat fragmentation, emerging diseases, changing fire regimes and invasive pests. Our board has put the response to climate change and resilience as a key priority. The Board, need to be doing all we can to give confidence to the community of a secure, vibrant and resilient Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- The prestigious Cassowary Awards are being held on 3 December 2016. This is an opportunity to recognise those individuals and organisations that go out of their way to support the World Heritage Area. It looks like being a fantastic event.

The Chair thanked the hard-working staff at the Authority for organising the Cassowary Award, as well as those involved with preparing for Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum, workshops, reconfiguring the Yellow Crazy Ant program and preparing for the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

The chair thanked Jason Jacobi who has recently accepted a new position as the General Manager of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service. Jason Jacobi has provided strong leadership and played an important role making the relationships between the Authority and NPSR better. The Chair invited Jason, once he has taken up his new role, to collaborate on our two World Heritage Areas (WHA) - the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA and the Wet Tropics WHA.



## Resolution

*The board **noted** the Chair's Report.*

### 2.2 Directors issues

**Professor Iain Gordon** advised the board that JCU Townsville campus have partnered with CSIRO to host a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students (16 to 18 year olds) for a three-day study course. These are high achieving students from around the country and there could be an opportunity for Aboriginal rangers to be involved. He also advised that:

- JCU has just signed a partnership agreement with South Carolina and University of San Francisco for a Galapagos Science Centre. GBRMPA is also about to sign a partnership agreement with a marine park in the Galapagos Island. Iain suggested that there could be an opportunity to explore World Heritage linkages in each of these areas (i.e. eastern seaboard of Australia and the Galapagos Island).
- JCU has recently signed up to the (International) Sustainable Development goals, and Iain was keen to explore how these may also be relevant and of interest to the work of the Wet Tropics Management Authority.
- the Australian Research Council (ARC) is changing the way it funds research to universities, with a stronger focus on industry outcomes, for example business or tourism work.

**Anne Clarke** advised the board that she was aware that amendments were being made to the State Planning Act that required stronger recognition of climate change, indigenous community planning and renewable energy in planning policies.

Anne Clarke also advised that she would be attending the launch of the Wet Tropics Water Quality Report Card.

**Leah Talbot** thanked directors for the feedback provided at the learning workshop held the previous day regarding the draft governance schematic presented.

Preparation for the next Institute of Australian Geographers conference is underway (held in June 2017, in Brisbane) and it be good if the Authority was interested for example, in providing support or presenting a paper.

**Phil Rist** thanked Authority staff for the information presented at the Rainforest Aboriginal Engagement in the Wet Tropics Cultural Landscape learning session the previous day. Although it is only his second meeting, he is pleased to see the genuine commitment to supporting indigenous aspirations on traditional lands.

Phil Rist advised that the Working on Country program runs out mid-2018, and as yet there had been no firm commitment to continued funding. If this is the case, this would be a huge setback in the Wet Tropics. Directors agreed that there is a role for the Authority to advocate to State and Commonwealth agencies (including through the Regional Coordination Managers Network) for the ranger programs to continue.

## Resolution

*The board **noted** the directors' issues.*

### 2.3 Board observer issues

Jason Jacobi provided an update on QPWS activities

Neal Muller thanked directors the opportunity to attend the meeting and did not provide a report.

## Resolution

*The board **noted** the board observers' issues.*

### 2.4 Executive Director's Report

Scott Buchanan tabled a written report to the board (**Attachment 2.3 (1)**) and also provided a verbal report and advised that:

- Ministerial Forum meeting was held on 25 November 2016. This was a short, but effective meeting. The Ministers endorsed most of the papers, and there was a good discussion about the yellow crazy ant eradication program.
- the Authority has developed a communications plan for the 2015/16 State of Wet Tropics Report which includes key messages that help to position the Authority as being across the issue and capable of developing a regional resilience response.
- the yellow crazy ant program has been very busy. They have relocated to a new premises and are currently recruiting additional field-based officers.
- the Authority recently hosted a delegation from the Fiji Department of Forestry and Fisheries. They were keen to share knowledge about systems of protected area management, how the Authority works with Traditional Owners and our approach to community engagement.
- the Authority provided support to Giringun Aboriginal Corporation to hold a Wet Tropics Indigenous Ranger workshop on 9-10 November 2016. Six ranger groups from within the Wet Tropics Area attended and feedback has been very positive.
- Max attended the FNQ Environment Round table on 18 November 2016. This forum was organised by the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) and included participants from all the conservation groups in far north Queensland region. The Authority provided some financial support for the event. It was an opportunity for the Authority to talk about priority projects to a broad audience and to demonstrate continued commitment to engaging with the conservation sector.
- On 10 November 2016, Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) held an Indigenous employment workshop in Brisbane. Alicia Haines accompanied the Executive Director to the workshop. The upcoming Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018 could be an opportunity to progress Indigenous cultural experiences throughout Queensland.

## Resolution

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

### 3.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES

#### 3.1 Review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan

Campbell Clarke addressed the board and reminded directors that at meeting No. 97 the directors noted the framework, steps and estimated timelines for the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review. The plan review framework has subsequently been amended at the request of the Board to enable final amendments to be completed to meet an anticipated Ministerial Forum meeting during June 2018. This will enable completion of the formal approvals by Governor-in-Council by December 2018.

Directors were also keen for the amended plan to better acknowledge the role of Rainforest Aboriginal people in managing the natural values of the Area. Under the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and*

*Management Act 1993* the Authority must give public notice of its proposal to commence this 10-yearly statutory review of the operation of the Plan.

The proposed plan amendments prepared by the previous Board in 2013 have been reviewed and recommended as a basis for seeking public comment in early 2017. It is proposed that some additional issues, such as subdivision, offsets and walking of dogs within the Area also be presented for public comment, perhaps without the Authority advocating a particular position.

The presentation will also include an explanation of how the plan regulates activities within the World Heritage Area and how it fits into a broader legislative and strategic planning framework. Pending the Board's endorsement of proposed Plan amendments, the Authority will prepare a 'have your say' booklet outlining the context for the Plan Review and a brief outline of proposed plan amendments and issues for public comment.

The booklet and maps will be distributed to regional centres and to stakeholder groups and individuals. Meetings will be held with Prescribed Bodies Corporate prior to commencement of the formal notification process to inform them of the process and discuss preferred consultation arrangements with Rainforest Aboriginal groups.

A separate leaflet will also be prepared for Rainforest Aboriginal people. It is proposed to fund three major sectors of the community to comment on the review of the plan. It is proposed the Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (\$5,000) and the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (\$5,000) be invited to enter into a contract to provide consolidated reports. Tenders will be invited to provide a report for Rainforest Aboriginal people (\$10,000) as there is currently no whole-of-Wet Tropics representative body. A more comprehensive Plan Review Consultation Plan will be prepared for the Board meeting in March 2017.

### **Resolutions**

#### *The board.*

- ***endorsed** the plan amendments under consideration by the Board to go out for public comment as part of the first formal round of consultation on the Plan Review in February 2017*
- ***noted** the inclusion of potential plan amendments to better acknowledge the role of Rainforest Aboriginal people in management of the natural values of the World Heritage Area, and*
- ***noted** that the Authority will undertake prior consultation with Rainforest Aboriginal people before the first formal round of consultation*

### **Actions**

- *Set up interdepartmental group of relevant Queensland Government entities to progress the Wet Tropics Management Plan.*

## **3.2 Cassowary Awards update**

Patricia O'Lughlen addressed the board and advised that the 2016 Cassowary Awards will take place at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures from 4pm to 8.30pm, Saturday 3 December 2016. A program for the event has been developed and includes the schedule of activities, a short bio on each of the shortlisted nominations, and sponsor advertisements.

At the In-camera Board meeting on 14 October 2016, the Board shortlisted 23 nominations and selected nine final recipients (two were selected for the Conservation and Rehabilitation Award). The Chair also selected the recipients to receive a Chair's Award. The recipients and other event attendees will first hear of the Chair's selection during the event ceremony. All categories have received sponsorship of \$550. A Welcome to

Country will be provided by Yirrganydji Elder, George Skeene, at the commencement of presentation formalities. ABC Far North Queensland breakfast host, Kier Shorey will be the MC for the Awards. Light entertainment will be provided by world music artists 'A Musical Odyssey', prior to and following the Awards presentation. Authority staff will oversee logistical details during the event including registering guests as they arrive at the venue.

One of the two winners of the Conservation and Rehabilitation Award has declined to accept his shortlisting. This leaves only one winner of that category. The Authority has been queried about the Board's decision to select a shortlist of finalists and then wait until the event to announce Award winners. This follows the invitation to all shortlisted nominations to attend the Awards.

As of 23 November, the Authority had received 190 RSVPs. Warren Entsch and Craig Crawford will be attending the Awards—Mr Entsch is representing Minister Frydenberg and will provide a speech, and Mr Crawford will be presenting the Rainforest Aboriginal People Award on behalf of Minister Pitt. These and the names of others representing the sponsors for the Awards are listed in the event sheet at Attachment 3.2(2). Board Directors have an important role throughout the evening to ensure these guests engage freely, understand the format of the event and generally feel comfortable. In particular, if Mrs Margaret Thorsborne is able to attend, she may require attention from a delegated Board director or staff member to ensure she is comfortable. The Authority distributed a media release on 11 November to announce the shortlisted candidates and has since promoted individuals through a daily Facebook post. A second media release will be distributed on Sunday 4 December, listing the winners of the Awards and will include various images from the event. The Authority has been liaising with print, radio and TV media from the region and are expecting a number of regional media outlets to attend the event. The Authority erected a Cassowary Awards display celebrating the shortlisted nominations, at the Cairns Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre on 18 November 2016. The display will remain until 18 December 2016 and will indicate the winners after the Awards.

The venue is predominantly undercover should the weather be unfavourable

## Resolution

### *The board:*

- ***noted** the final arrangements for the Cassowary Awards, and*
- ***confirmed** the Chair and Directors' roles at the Awards.*

## 3.3 2017 Board meeting dates

Directors were reminded that under s27 of the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*, the Board must meet at least four times a year. Dates and locations for 2017 meetings are proposed as follows:

Board Meeting No 100 - 25-26 May 2017 Cardwell, including a possible joint meeting with the GBRMPA

Board meeting No 101 - 17-18 August 2017 Daintree possible joint meeting with the Terrain NRM

Board meeting No 102 23-24 November 2017 Cairns, Includes Cassowary Awards ceremony to be held on 55 November 2017

## Resolution

*The board* **agreed** on the dates and locations for the Board meetings held in 2017.

### 3.4 Wet Tropics Presentation Strategy – discussion paper

At board meeting 96 held on 6 May 2016 the directors requested the Authority develop a strategic framework for Wet Tropics presentation based on a review of current investment into Visitor Information Centres, digital collateral and interpretation. A Draft Discussion paper was presented that canvasses a range of issues and responses from stakeholders in relation to this work. The Board previously requested a review of the current approach to Wet Tropics presentation and the state of visitor centres. The findings of this review are summarised in the Draft Discussion paper. The paper acknowledges the great variation of standards of presentation and identifies the need to better target support of key visitor centres and attractions that focus on connecting visitors to the world heritage area, its value and experience opportunities.

The paper highlights the increasing importance of digital channels for communicating with visitors as well as the high value of investment in training of people working in the tourism industry as presenters of the Wet Tropics. Future opportunities for Wet Tropics presentation can be enhanced on the basis of building partnerships across the tourism sector. There is significant goodwill between partners to contribute based on existing programs such as tour guide training as well as support provided to visitor centres and tourism attractions. Further direction from the Board is required to prioritise future investment of resources based on the information collected to date. An action plan for future activities should be developed as a basis for eliciting support and cooperation from partners. Adoption of a consistent approach to branding and presenting the area is an important part of promoting awareness and appreciation. Design elements should feature the World Heritage emblem displayed in signage, displays, and uniforms and on printed and digital products. Critical activities to advance implementation of the strategy include a presentation action plan developed by February 2017.

Our actions and activities will be limited if we cannot effectively broker partnership arrangements and private sector investment

An augmented focus on Wet Tropics presentation will have cost implications requiring new investment. Concurrent Board deliberations regarding creative resourcing will help identify new potential sources of investment.

A range of agencies have been informally consulted including cross section of the tourism industry, private businesses, council managers, visitor centre managers and volunteers and officers from NPSR. .

## Resolution

*The Board*

- ***Noted*** the draft discussion paper; and
- ***supported*** the further development of the Wet Tropics Presentation Strategy

### 3.5 Advisory Committees

During September 2016 the Authority advertised for and invited expressions of interest for membership on the 2016 – 2019 SAC and CCC. The Authority received twenty-two expressions of interest for the eight positions on the SAC and eighteen expressions of interest for twelve positions on the CCC. The Authority's Chairperson, Leslie Shirreffs, Director and SAC Chairperson, Iain Gordon and Executive Director, Scott Buchanan teleconferenced on 11 November 2016 to short-list eight SAC members. Twelve Community Consultative Committee members were short-listed by Leslie Shirreffs and Anne Clarke on 14 October 2016. Directors were sent two Out of Session Board Papers (OOS 428 and OOS 429) on 16 November 2016 with a recommendation to endorse appointments of members to the SAC and CCC, by 23 November 2016.

Members of both committees will attend an induction meeting on 15 November 2016. The induction meeting will include a joint agenda in the morning and will be split after morning tea to accommodate each committee's specific induction needs. Both committees will discuss how future meeting agendas will be set—mindful of the need to remain flexible to emerging issues, community concerns and the needs of the Board. Additional discussions will confirm travel arrangements for remote members, and the best method for communicating during and in between meetings.

#### Resolution

##### *The Board*

- *noted the agenda for the joint Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Community Consultative Committee (CCC) induction meeting scheduled for Thursday, 15 December 2016 (Attachment 4.2 (1))*

### 3.6 Review of Board Priorities 2015-18

The Wet Tropics Management Authority Strategic Plan sets out the Authority's directions for 2013- 2018. At Board meeting No 96 (May 2016) Directors endorsed board priorities for 2015-18, including key performance indicators (milestones), in line with the 2013-18 Strategic Plan. The goals identified in the 2013-18 Strategic Plan, operational priorities and key drivers and a report on progress towards the 2015-18 Board priorities are provided at **Attachment 3.6 (1)**.

The strategic priorities were approved in May 2016, and this report provides a 6-month snapshot of progress on a three year program. The milestones are intended to guide the future work program and projects to June 2018 for the Authority and be used by the Board to measure their success. The Authority will provide a mid-year report on the implementation of the 2016-17 business plan and budget at the March 2017 meeting.

The Authority's strategic plan and board priorities system forms the basis of how we allocate Authority's staff and financial resources.

#### Resolution

##### *The Board*

*Noted the progress on the implementation of the Board strategic priorities for 2015-18.*

#### 4.0 OTHER BUSINESS

##### 4.1 Approval of out of session Board papers OOS427, OOS428 and OOS429

###### Resolution

*The Board confirmed **approval of** OOS board papers OOS427, OOS428 and OOS429*

##### 4.2 MY business

Dale and Dewayne Mundraby attended the meeting and provided an update on the proposed Aboriginal tourism proposal at East Trinity led by Mandingalbay Yidinji Tourism Enterprise.

###### Actions

- *Chair and Executive Director to meet with Mandingalbay Yidinji Tourism Enterprise representatives on 3 December 2016 for a one-hour meeting.*

##### 4.3 Wet Tropics Board communique

###### Resolution

*The Board **approved** the communiqué for distribution*

###### Actions

- *E Weber to put final communique on WTMA website.*

##### 4.4 Board governance training

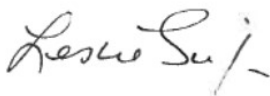
###### Actions

- *E Weber to send date claimer for governance training which will be delivered through the Australian Institute of Community Directors over a two-day period.*

##### 4.5 Electronic signatures

###### Actions

- *Board directors to provide Executive Officer with e-signature*



.....  
Ms Leslie Shirreff PSM  
Chair

Date 01/02/2017