

## Wet Tropics Management Authority

### Board Priorities 2021-2024

The **Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020-2030** sets out the Outcomes the Authority aspires to, to protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations, and if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area. The Plan outlines Strategies and Actions to achieve these 10-year Outcomes. Strategies include climate change and other threats, support Rainforest Aboriginal People, involve the community, world-class tourism and recreation, minimise impacts, and foundational activities to support these strategies. The Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority has outlined its key priorities for 2021-2024 in line with the Strategic Plan.

#### A Collaborative Approach

The Authority leads, coordinates and supports management of the Area with a wide range of partners to achieve best practice World Heritage management. The Authority will maintain and strengthen collaborative partnerships to improve the quality and depth of work undertaken to achieve desired 10-year Outcomes. All the actions in the Strategic Plan will be supported by a commitment to working in close partnership and collaboration with our key stakeholders and partners.

#### 10 Year outcomes

The Wet Tropics Management Authority's Strategic Plan 2020-2030 is structured around four 10-year Outcomes. They are:

**Outcome 1** - World Heritage values and integrity of the Area are maintained and/or enhanced.

**Outcome 2** - Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' rights, interests, traditions, and cultures are embedded in World Heritage management, with aspirations for Traditional Owner-led management to advance Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' livelihoods and wellbeing—spiritually, emotionally, culturally, socially, economically, and environmentally.

**Outcome 3** - Management of the Area is a shared responsibility of an engaged and informed Wet Tropics community.

**Outcome 4** - The Area is recognised as a world-class sustainable natural and cultural tourism destination.

## Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030 - Board priorities 2021-2024

### Strategy 1. Climate change and other threats

Respond to the impacts of climate change and priority cross-tenure threats to the Area

Board Priorities:

- Pursue an aggressive approach to climate change advocacy and action, including
  - Target initiatives with geographic focus/ prioritise specific habitats.
  - Develop the scientific foundation for intensive intervention actions.
  - Identify and address policy/legislative constraints to climate action.
  - Maintain momentum of on the ground projects, including implementing Accept Act Adapt Climate Adaptation Plan priorities and the Green and Blue stimulus package.
  - Grow partnerships and community integration with climate change efforts, including with the tourism sector.
- Prioritise invasive species responses
  - Continue implementation of Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and secure ongoing funding.
  - Identify priority pests for coordinated response with partners (e.g., feral pig management).

## Strategy 2. Support Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples

Promote and incorporate the rights, interests and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples in the management of the Area

Board Priorities:

- Ensure that aspirations for Traditional Custodian led management and livelihoods are supported consistent with measures outlined in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement. Outcomes include:
  - active support provided to an Indigenous led process to refresh the 2005 Regional Agreement
  - integration of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' values into World Heritage management
  - pursuit of co-stewardship opportunities
  - economic opportunities for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.
- Ensure strong communication with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples across all activities.

## Strategy 3. Involve the community

Optimise community participation and connection with the Area through innovative interpretation, with a focus on education, volunteering and social inclusion.

Board Priorities:

- Finalise communications strategy with clear and consistent messages that position the Authority as the point of truth for World Heritage matters and values (visible, credible, pro-active).
- Develop a Healthy Parks, Healthy Peoples style engagement program to encourage community participation and advocacy, recognise the benefits and achievements of volunteers and engender momentum for community action
- Increase meaningful contributions from community led committees (e.g., SAC, CCC, YCA Reference Committee).
- Empower Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples to advocate for World Heritage protection/stewardship.

## Strategy 4. World-class tourism and recreation

Enhance World Heritage presentation and support opportunities for natural and cultural tourism and recreation.

Board Priorities:

- Implement priority actions in the Sustainable Tourism Plan in collaboration with partners, including
  - Citizen science and voluntourism initiatives;
  - Master Guides and Ambassador program;
  - Partner with others to advance Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' tourism aspirations.
- Position the Wet Tropics WHA to support post COVID recovery (e.g. through Green and Blue advocacy).

## Strategy 5. Minimise impacts

Manage activities that may have an impact on the Area appropriately through a regulated permit and zoning system

Board Priorities:

- Prepare guidelines to support the implementation of the Wet Tropics Management Plan, including:
  - Co-designed Cooperative Management Agreement guidelines supported by Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.
- Improve permitting processes.
- Contemporise the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* to ensure alignment with Commonwealth initiatives and the Statutory Management Plan.

## Foundation activities

An accountable and capable organisation

Board Priorities:

- Secure significant additional funding for advancing the Strategic Plan.
- Increase participation, and integration, of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples into the daily business of the Authority (e.g. continue to increase representation on the Board of Directors; explore internship opportunities; implement workforce plan and include targets in resource agreement with QPWS).