



Our vision is 'to protect the values of the Wet Tropics through collaboration, culture, knowledge and passion'.

BOARD COMMUNIQUE 119

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) is a statutory body led by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors includes Ms Chrissy Grant (Chair), Ms Ailsa Lively, Dr Sally Driml, Professor Stephen Williams, Ms Robin Clark. Mr Scott Buchanan is the Executive Director of the Authority. The Authority partners with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, the community, industry and the Government to protect and present the unique values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority's Board of Directors met in Cairns on 9 and 10 June 2022. Key items discussed included:

- **The Board's Key Focus Areas**
- **Consulting the community**
- **Landscape restoration initiatives in the Wet Tropics**
- **Involving young people**
- **Supporting Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples**
- **19th Cassowary Awards**
- **Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan Implementation**

The Board's Key Focus Areas

The Board of Directors reviewed the Board Priorities to align with the rest of the Authority's planning. The Board's Key Focus Areas will be reviewed and updated each year to ensure that the Board can remain agile to respond to contemporary issues and opportunities. The Key Focus Areas will be published on the Authority's website soon.

Consulting the community

The Board held a joint meeting with the Authority's Community Consultative Committee (CCC) where Directors were able to hear firsthand from the CCC members who represent the community across the World Heritage Area. The Board appreciated the opportunity for the meeting and values the continuing advice from members of this statutory advisory committee to the Authority.

Landscape restoration initiatives in the Wet Tropics

The Authority continues to consult with key stakeholders and strengthen relationships with critical sectors to establish a Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance.

To celebrate the restoration work carried out as part of the Reef Assist program, the Authority hosted a film premiere. These films promote restoration work carried out by rangers and are available on the Authority's [YouTube channel](#). The film event also showcased the outcomes of a successful Youth Round Table. The Directors were impressed by the level of commitment to a nature-based economy demonstrated by the young people engaged in the Reef Assist Program. The Board will consider the draft report from the Youth Round Table and share with Ministers. The Board was very pleased to hear the recent announcement of a second round of Reef Assist funding to continue important restorative works.

Involving young people

The Board is considering ways that it can offer leadership opportunities to young people on the Board and within the Authority. Directors identified the importance of knowing what the issues are for the World Heritage Area from a young person's perspective and taking their views into consideration in decisions. The Authority's CCC is providing advice and an internal working group is considering potential models for involving young people. Case studies of how other organisations are achieving this are being considered. The model chosen will provide mentorship and involve youth in a sustainable way. This may involve partnership opportunities with other organisations. The Board will progress this through the Authority's Youth Engagement Strategy.

Supporting Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples

The Board noted the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Think Tank (RAPTT) have submitted a draft funding proposal 'Empowering Country, Culture, Community' to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation for feedback. The Authority will continue to support the RAPTT who will present at the 2022 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum (29-31 July) to provide an update on their proposal and seek endorsement of actions. The Authority's Cultural Landscapes Project funded through an Australian Heritage Grant has been executed and a Steering Committee has been established with Board Director Ailsa Lively as Chair.

19th Cassowary Awards

The 19th Cassowary Awards will be held on the 8 October at Tjapukai Now. The Board encourages partners and individuals to nominate worthy recipients for the nine award categories by 1 July. These prestigious Awards are about recognising outstanding community contributions to the protection and management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Preparations for the Awards continue, including finalising sponsorships.

Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan Implementation

The Authority is progressing priority actions from the plan. A contractor has been engaged to review and update the Wet Tropics Tour Guide program, in collaboration with DES and TEQ. Other activities include the delivery of Wet Tropics Sustainable Tourism Plan roadshows and the Wet Tropics Ambassador Program (face to face and online). The Authority is participating in an interagency working group for ecotourism actions, contributing to the TNQ First Nations Tourism Action Plan development and partnering with DES in the development of a Wet Tropics Presentation Framework. The partnership with DES will lead to consistent branding across the five World Heritage Areas of Queensland.

Board meeting 120 will be held in August 2022.

For more information, please phone 07 4241 0500 or email wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au