



**WET TROPICS**  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



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WORLD HERITAGE • PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL

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

## BOARD COMMUNIQUE 121

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) is a statutory body overseen by an independent Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors includes Ms Chrissy Grant (Chair), Ms Ailsa Lively, Dr Sally Driml, Professor Stephen Williams, Ms Robin Clark and Mr Scott Buchanan (Executive Director). The Authority's role is to ensure Australia's obligation to the World Heritage Convention is met in relation to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority's Board of Directors met in person on 7 October 2022. Key items discussed included:

- **The Board learning about STEM – thanks to Paramatta State School**
- **Landscape restoration program – establishing the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance**
- **Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program**
- **Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum**
- **Communication Strategy and youth involvement**
- **Quarterly budget and milestone report**

### The Board learning about STEM – thanks to Paramatta State School

Approximately 20 students from the Parramatta State School attended the Board meeting to present on the citizen science project they have been completing in collaboration with the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. The students are part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy, and their teacher Melissa Brolese and Authority staff member Kirsty Cante led a presentation on the development and progress of the pilot STEM project that commenced in Term 1 this year for grades 4 to 6. The Board heard how the project came to life through collaboration with James Cook University's education faculty member Dr Subhashni Taylor, Parramatta State School and the Authority with the key aim of improving student diversity within the STEM academy and providing real world research opportunities for students. The Board were delighted to see the level of passion and knowledge the students exhibited.

### Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum



WORLD HERITAGE IS OUR PROMISE TO THE FUTURE

Planning continues for the Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Forum which will be held 28-30 October 2022 in Cairns, with approximately 40 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and various government representatives already registered. The Board encourages all invited peoples to register as soon as possible.

### **Landscape restoration program – establishing the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance**

On 16 September 2022, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Terrain NRM and James Cook University hosted an event in Cairns for the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance. The event brought together 27 organisations from across the region who share a strong interest in ensuring that Wet Tropics landscapes are resilient to a changing climate. As a result of the day, and with the support of these organisations, the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance was formally established. The Board acknowledged this important milestone and noted the program of work over the next 12 months to progress the work of the Alliance. This includes the development of an investment strategy to diversify and upscale resources, and a number of community-based planning processes to encourage more uptake of restoration on-ground. This work is strongly supported through funding from the Department of Environment and Science. The Board encourages other organisations to consider joining the Alliance. More information can be found through the following link: [Statement of commitment to establish the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance](#).

### **Communication Strategy and youth involvement**

The Board recognised the Authority's proposed approach to developing a new Wet Tropics Communication Strategy and the Youth Engagement Plan, due to be finalised in June 2023. The Communication Strategy will guide the Authority in creating and delivering a strong corporate identity, brand and voice which will be immediately identifiable to a local, national and international audience. The Board acknowledged the significant progress across a number of youth related activities including the STEM program and partnership with Paramatta State School, the Youth Round Table, and the tree planting with Bentley Park College and Clontarf students. The Youth Engagement Plan will be informed by the 'Youth on the Board' Working Group, and the Youth Round Table Process, outcomes of trial grass roots projects to be run in early 2023 and consultation with key stakeholders.

### **Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program**

The Board recognises the outstanding support, and significant progress towards the development of the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program, including the engagement of consultants to develop program design, and branding: *Wet Tropics World Heritage Guides: A Queensland Guides Program*. The Program concept is built around four guiding principles: Promote World Heritage and National Heritage values; Respect Rainforest Aboriginal cultures and Country; Enhance Capacity of Wet Tropics Advocates; and Support ongoing professional practice. Program design is on track for completion by December 2022, with the online launch planned for mid-2023.

### **Quarterly budget and milestone report**

The Board reviewed the quarterly budget and milestone report, and are pleased to report that the budget and milestones are on track. The Board congratulated the Authority staff for the significant deliverables in the first quarter and dealing with challenging priorities and a constrained budget.

### **Board meeting 122 will be held in Cairns in the first quarter 2023.**

*For more information, please phone 07 4241 0500 or email [wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au)*