



## Communiqué

Board Meeting No 100

25-26 May 2017

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The Board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority met in Cairns on 25-26 May 2017, with a number of important strategies and plans considered by the directors over the course of the two days.

Directors noted good progress of the Wet Tropics Plan Review. Comprehensive consultation has commenced with the tourism industry, local government, conservation sector, infrastructure providers and Rainforest Aboriginal representative organisations. The Board previewed the Authority's web-based [interactive platform](#) that show the proposed changes to the zoning maps. The Board looks forward to reviewing submissions on the Plan when they close on Friday 30 June 2017.

The Chairs of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) informed the Board of the success of recent meetings. The CCC recommended the Authority extend its reach into the community by using Indigenous media outlets to promote the World Heritage Area such as [Bumma Bippera Media](#) (BBM). BBM has a strong regional and remote audience within the Wet Tropics and a strong listening audience within the Indigenous and agriculture sectors. The Authority will pursue further engagement with BBM's audience.

The SAC reinforced the importance on providing clear guidance on climate adaptation. A workshop will be held to explore opportunities, using both western science and traditional (tribal) knowledge, to best plan for and manage the impacts of climate change.

Directors were updated on the implementation of the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication program. Increased resources has enabled the team to better treat and identify infestations in the region. A more intensive program of treatment is foreshadowed based on the outcomes of the research program underway with James Cook University.

The proposal for alternative power in the Daintree region (north of the Daintree River) was discussed and the board supported the examination of alternative approaches to shared power solutions that avoids impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and agreed that the Authority should proactively participate in investigating solutions.

On the second day, key staff from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks, Sport and Recreation and the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and Commonwealth Games joined directors and key WTMA staff to workshop the Wet Tropics Presentation Strategy. The Board put strong emphasis on a presentation strategy that strives to connect people to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, enhancing their experience and appreciation of its values.

Directors noted apologies from Leah Talbot and Phil Rist at the meeting, who were unable to attend. CCC members Seraeah Wyles and Dennis Ah Kee attended as observers in their absence, ensuring Rainforest Aboriginal perspectives were included in the discussions.

The next board meeting will be held in August 2017.