

## Indigenous Advisory Committee—Questions and answers

<p><b>What is the role of the IAC?</b></p>	<p>The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Wet Tropics Management Authority (Authority) and Terrain NRM (Terrain) is a non-statutory committee established to ensure that the views, interests, and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples are included in the delivery of strategic plans and programs specific to the Authority and Terrain.</p>
<p><b>Will the IAC be paid sitting fees? And if so, what is the rate?</b></p>	<p>Yes, IAC members will be paid sitting fees in accordance with the Department of Environment and Science’s (DES) procedural guide: Payments to First Nations People working with DES (Co-stewardship Payments).</p> <p>The current rate is \$608.70/full day or \$304.35/half day (2022–2023 financial year—payment rates are updated annually in early July).</p>
<p><b>How is the IAC different to the RAPTT?</b></p>	<p>The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Think Tank (RAPTT—previously the Traditional Owner Leadership Group or TOLG) was mandated at the 2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Regional Forum to refresh the Wet Tropics of Queensland Regional Agreement. This work includes the development of a regional governance body which has yet to be realised. The Authority and Terrain NRM support this approach and hope to be able to engage through this entity once it is established.</p> <p>The IAC is not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a statutory committee</li> <li>• a representative body</li> <li>• a regional governance body</li> <li>• responsible for the Refresh of the Regional Agreement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will the IAC function?</b></p>	<p>The IAC will function in accordance with the IAC Terms of Reference. All members of the IAC will be invited to attend all meetings, which will include a draft agenda. Members will have an option of either attending the meeting to provide advice or abstaining from attending. The level of contributions made by members on specific matters will be dependent on several factors including relevant expertise, however cultural perspectives are considered core to all advice sought from IAC members.</p>
<p><b>How will IAC advice be used?</b></p>	<p>The Chairs of the IAC with support from the secretariats will be responsible for reporting relationships and processes for requesting advice, receiving advice and reporting (back to the IAC) on outcomes and decisions.</p> <p>Subject to cultural intellectual property rights, the respective Boards or appropriate delegate will make the ultimate decision on how advice received will be used. It is anticipated that advice will be considered in the same way as advice received from the Authority’s statutory Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Community Consultative Committee (CCC).</p>
<p><b>How will the Chair of the IAC be selected?</b></p>	<p>The IAC will be alternately chaired by one Indigenous Director from each of the Authority and Terrain NRM Boards who will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking advice from the IAC on behalf of the Boards</li> <li>• Providing advice from the IAC to respective Boards</li> <li>• Communicating outcomes back from the Boards to the IAC.</li> </ul> <p>This structure is consistent with that of the SAC and CCC.</p>

<p><b>How will members be selected?</b></p>	<p>Expressions of interest for members of the IAC will be sought between mid-May and June 2023. Communications will be distributed widely through our networks across the Wet Tropics Biocultural Region. We are seeking a diverse membership group. Members will be chosen by a panel representing the Authority and Terrain NRM.</p>
<p><b>Why is the IAC being set up now rather than waiting for the Rainforest Peoples' Forum?</b></p>	<p>The IAC will fill an urgent operational requirement for the Authority and Terrain NRM. It is an interim body subject to review and feedback (including from Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples).</p> <p>A formal presentation will be made at the 2023 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum with feedback from Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples being used to inform the ongoing structure of the IAC and its efficacy.</p>
<p><b>How will the IAC impact the Refresh of the Regional Agreement?</b></p>	<p>The Authority and Terrain NRM will continue to provide in-kind support to the Refresh of the Regional Agreement.</p> <p>The Authority have provided significant funding and in-kind contributions to supporting the Refresh of the Regional Agreement since 2017 through an Indigenous led approach by the RAPTT. However, the Refresh, including delivery of a regional governance model, has yet to be realised.</p> <p>The Authority and Terrain NRM continue to provide in-kind support to the RAPTT in securing external funding to deliver outstanding bodies of work.</p> <p>The Authority will continue to deliver an annual Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum, the agenda of which will be guided by feedback from participants including Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and partner agencies including Terrain NRM.</p> <p>The Authority and Terrain NRM will continue to work with Rainforest Aboriginal groups and partners across the Wet Tropics Biocultural Region to deliver on commitments of the Wet Tropics of Queensland Regional Agreement 2005.</p>
<p><b>How is the IAC being funded?</b></p>	<p>The Authority and Terrain NRM will support the IAC with a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement.</p>