



Board meeting Number 101
17-18 August 2017
Minutes

Board directors

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Ms Leah Talbot	Director (by phone)
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

Government Representatives

Ms Alison Webb	Regional Director, Department of National Parks Sport and Racing
Ms Angela Siggery	Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Conservation and Sustainability Services, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)

WTMA officers

Ms Lorraine Briggs	Planner, Planning and Conservation
Dr Paul Chantrill	Principal Project Officer, Tourism and Presentation
Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Ms Lucy Karger	Project Manager, yellow crazy ant eradication
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Mr Eli Taylor	Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Ms Ellen Weber	Executive Officer
Ms Cara Sanders Wall	WTMA volunteer

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome from Girringun

Mr Phil Rist, Executive Officer for the Aboriginal Corporation welcomed the Wet Tropics Board of Directors to their first formal visit to Girramay Country. He thanked the Authority for the opportunity for the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation to host the meeting.

1.2 Welcome from Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority

The Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Ms Leslie Shirreffs, acknowledged that Board meeting was being held in Cardwell, the traditional lands of the Girramay people. The Chair thanked the directors and staff of the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation for their generosity in hosting the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged all of the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics region, past, present and emerging on behalf of the Board and staff, and thanked Girringun Aboriginal Corporation officers for helping to organise the meeting.

The Chair welcomed the government representatives to the meeting, including Alison Webb, and congratulated her on her being officially appointed Regional Director, National Parks, Sport and Racing and wished her all the best in her new role.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies were received by the Department of Environment and Energy who were unable to send officers to attend the meeting. They have requested for a briefing on the outcomes of the meeting.

Director Leah Talbot was unable to attend the meeting in person, and would participate by phone for a number of items during the meeting.

Action

- Write letter to DTESB, inviting them to nominate a government representative to attend future board meetings.

1.4 Conflict of Interest

Director Iain Gordon noted that he was employed by James Cook University and that the University had a number of current contracts with the Authority.

1.5 Previous minutes of meeting No 101

Resolution

The Board **approved** the minutes for meeting number 101.

1.6 Actions arising

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Actions Arising from the previous meeting, as updated.

1.7 Significant correspondence

Media releases

6 June 2017. WTMA. Wet Tropics Management Plan Review.

14 June 2017. WTMA. Wild eco-sculptures crafted with a message

28 June 2017. WTMA. Wet Tropics Management Plan Review - response to issues raised

21 July 2017. DoEE. Media Release from Minister Josh Frydenberg MP on 'Yellow Crazy Ants Meet their Match in Taskforce'.

2 August 2017. WTMA. Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce Success

4 August 2017. QLD Minister Pitt. Media Statement on 'Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce Success'.

Correspondence

23 June 2017. Letter from Minister Curtis Pitt MP to Minister Steven Miles MP approving the release of funding for the management of yellow crazy ants.

4 July 2017. Correspondence affirming support from WTMA for the Mossman Botanic Garden to provide advice and support projects.

31 July 2017. 2016-17 End of Year Report on WTMA-NPSR Partnership Agreement 2016-2019.

12 August 2017. Tourism Industry submission on Draft Threat Abatement Plan for Disease in Natural Ecosystems Caused by *Phytophthora Cinnamomi*.

Publications

11 April 2017. Australian Geographic May-June Edition. Feature story- 'Tropical North Queensland Adventures: Into the West' by Jeremy Bourke.

July 2017. Rainforest Aboriginal News. Issue four.

19-20 June 2017. Conference Booklet for Developing Northern Australia Conference 2017. Pullman Cairns International.

Briefings

28 July 2017. Agenda and communique from Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum No. 27

3 August 2017. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting, including agenda and key issue papers (i) on Resilience of World Heritage Values in a changing climate. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting; (ii) on Research and Monitoring. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting; (iii) on Meaningful Engagement of Traditional Owners. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting; and (iv) on Queensland World Heritage Cross-Property Collaboration. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting.

Invitations

12 July 2017. Letter of Invitation to '2017 Right to Information Day Solomon Lecture' from the Office of the Information Commissioner.

12 July 2017. Invitation to '2017 Right to Information Day Solomon Lecture'. The Edge, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane.

10 August 2017. Invitation to exhibition opening night of 'The Vision and Passion of William T Cooper: A Retrospective'. Tableland Regional Gallery, Atherton.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the correspondence report.

Actions

- WTMA ED to write a letter to NPSR acknowledging receipt of their end of year milestone report for 2016/17.
- Directors John Courtenay, Anne Clarke and Scott Buchanan will represent the Authority at the William Cooper exhibition in Atherton.

2.0 STANDING REPORTS

2.1 Chair's report

Leslie Shirreffs addressed the board and provided an update on the strategic briefings and meetings that she had recently participated in since the last meeting, and include:

- Attended the Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting in Brisbane on 3 August 2017. Thank you to Angela Siggery and her team for coordinating. Four briefing papers went up to the Environment Minister and the Senior EHP Executive. There was remarkable commonality of concerns from all of the Chairs, in particular climate change, better research and monitoring, meaningful engagement of Traditional Owners and Queensland World Heritage Cross-Property

Collaboration. Queensland Terrestrial World Heritage Chairs meeting. Tony Roberts (DDG Environmental Policy and Planning, EHP) has agreed to develop a sectoral adaptation strategy that addresses World Heritage in the QLD Government *Climate Adaption Plan*.

- met with regional tourism leaders from TTNQ and the Alliance for Sustainable Tourism including Max Shepherd, Pip Close and Wendy Morris to discuss opportunities to work together, including science opportunities
- had an opportunity to chat with Minister Furner at a Community Cabinet meeting in SEQ, and was invited to make a time for the ED and Chair to formally brief him on the Board's priorities regarding meaningful Rainforest Aboriginal engagement (including progressing economic opportunities) in the Wet Tropics
- was pleased to see great outcomes in a number of WTMA projects including implementation of the branding 'share, connect, protect'; a successful Ministerial Forum meeting; preliminary planning for the Cassowary Awards and also strong progress in the Plan Review, and
- Acknowledged the passing of Mr Vince Mundraby, Indigenous leader and campaigner, former Mayor of Yarrabah and Chair of Djunbunji Land and Sea Program, whose honesty, integrity and leadership she admired.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Chair's report.

Actions

- Scott Buchanan to work through Ange Siggery's team and Tony Roberts team in Brisbane to progress World Heritage resilience being incorporated into the Climate Adaption Plan.

2.2 Executive Director's report

Scott Buchanan addressed the board and provided an update on some key programs and projects underway including:

- providing urgent briefs regarding a feasibility study for the Tully Hydroelectric project (near Ravenshoe), which is gaining media interest at a national level. The Authority is providing information to both the State and Commonwealth departments.
- the inaugural meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee. The group includes indigenous members of the Board, SAC and CCC and it is pleasing the with active leadership within the group
- work with TTNQ for improved branding and marketing of the Wet Tropics Area, including strategies to disperse visitation throughout the entire Wet Tropics region
- met with Advance Queensland (DSITI) who were keen to share information on funding available for innovation, entrepreneurs and start-ups particularly for Aboriginal people. The World Heritage Connections team are currently working through the package they provided and will provide advice on opportunities for the Authority to facilitate partnerships with regional Rainforest Aboriginal organisations
- cassowary matters continue to be at the forefront of Authority business, including World Cassowary Day in September, followed by a Wet Tropics threatened species workshop the following day.

- pleasing to see the refreshed Wet Tropics website. The design was completed in-house and the framework contracted to a website company. The new site is much more intuitive and the information now easier to locate and read
- congratulated DEHP on a terrific World Heritage Chairs meeting. It was a very positive meeting and wonderful to see engagement with NPSR and stronger relationships with the WH teams in Brisbane and Cairns.
- pleasing to read the article about Wet Tropics rainforests in the latest edition of the National Geographic. In addition, there was a story in the Jetstar in-flight magazine. Both articles quoted Authority staff and our key messages about the values of the WHA
- the large recruitment program underway to work on yellow crazy ants (including field, operational, admin and technical roles). Around 28 positions are being filled, and the Authority has engaged the services of EHP Merit Solutions to assist with HRM. Congratulations to Lucy Karger, who was acting project manager, and was recently appointed through a merit-based process to take on the project manager role.

Resolution

The Board noted the Executive Director's report on the Authority issues since Board meeting 101.

2.3 Director's reports

Leah Talbot advised that she had accepted an invitation to be part of the Queensland Premier's climate change committee. Minister Miles is also a member of the committee, which also includes private sector and industry representatives.

Leah advised that she attended the second meeting of the Commonwealth Minister's Indigenous Advisory Committee; and that she had completed her exit seminar, submitted her doctoral thesis, which had been accepted by the examiners, with a recommendation for the University council to approve with no amendments. Her graduation will be in March 2018. Leah would like to provide a hard copy of the thesis to the Authority and to provide a presentation to the board and interested staff.

John Courtenay has been working with the Tablelands Regional Council to promote the Bill Cooper retrospective art exhibition. Sir David Attenborough provided a piece to camera, speaking about the scientific and artistic value Bill Cooper's art work. All directors have been invited to attend the opening night.

Anne Clarke advised the board that she visited the Cairns Museum and noticed a display about Wet Tropics listing that asked people to vote on whether or not they would support listing of the WTWHA today.

She also advised that KurWorld remains a divisive issue in Kuranda, and that community advocates against the proposal were seeking advice and public comment from leading scientists regarding the potential impact of the development on endemic populations of palms and frogs.

Iain Gordon noted that directors were invited to many regional events, and that it was important to be able to distribute attendance between directors as appropriate. He would welcome guidance from the Authority regarding this.

Iain Gordon advised he had been invited to attend the Wet Tropic Major Integrated Project launch on the 31st August 2017.

Phil Rist advised that he would be travelling to Chile from 1-9 September 2017 to participate in at International Marine Parks Protected Area Conference.

Phil Rist advised that he was one of the 250 Indigenous leaders from around the country invited to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru. The Convention was a historic gathering, that built on six months of discussions held around the country (including the Cairns Dialogue) where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples considered five options presented in the Referendum Council's discussion paper. It was a very ambitious meeting, and all delegates were able to agree that sovereignty has never been ceded or extinguished; and that the gathering would like this recognised in the Constitution.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the directors' reports, and
- **congratulated** Leah Talbot in her successful acceptance of her doctoral thesis, and looked forward to her presenting her results to the board.

Actions

- Organise a visit to the Cairns Museum as part of a future board meeting (potentially in November 2017, on the morning of the Cassowary Awards).
- Directors to advise Ellen Weber if they are invited to events, in their WTMA capacity, to ensure the Authority is appropriately represented, and that she can coordinate attendance as necessary.
- Leah Talbot to provide information to Ellen Weber about her QLD Ministerial appointment to the climate change committee to put on her WTMA HRM file.
- Leah Talbot to give interested WTMA officers, and the board a presentation on her doctoral thesis.
- Phil Rist to organise for the WTMA Chair to attend GBRMPAs Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC).

2.4 CCC report to the Board

Anne Clarke addressed the board and briefed them on the CCC meeting. Major issues (and board responses) raised at the meeting included:

- concern from members on the general lack of understanding in the broader community about climate change and its potential impacts on World Heritage Values. Directors agreed that there is an important role for both the SAC and CCC to be involved in a climate response and solution, that the Authority has already invested resources into climate change through the student research grant scheme and also previous State of Wet Tropics reports;
- their keen interest in Daintree energy issues and hearing more about the process at a future meeting;
- concern about recent Tully Millstream proposal. The Chair noted that the Board, as an independent body, would not be involved in political debates about hydroelectricity. While it is appropriate for the Chair and the Executive director, on occasion, and as requested to meet with sitting members of the Queensland and Australian parliament, it was inappropriate and outside of the scope of their Ministerial appointments to brief candidates running for election. In

addition, the Authority would be involved in any formal assessment for the proposal, as it was inside the WHA, and it would be a conflict to brief candidates on the matter;

- a request that the Board include a new climate change/sustainability focused award at future Cassowary Awards;
- a discussion about the Cassowary Recovery Facilities at Garners Beach and Lake Barrine and issues around translocating captive birds. The CCC sees the need to collect good data on Cassowaries released from these facilities and asked for advice from the Authority how the CCC might add value to the Cassowary Recovery Team's work. Directors noted that NPSR and EHP worked very closely with CSIRO researcher David Westcott, and that he was a member of the Authority's SAC and Cassowary Recovery Team. He should be the first point of contact for any conversation; and
- some members observing significant changes to ecotones within the Wet Tropics bioregion over time because of what they perceive as inappropriate fire regimes on hill slopes adjacent to National Parks and the World Heritage Area.

Resolution

The Board **noted** and **responded** to significant outcomes from the Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 27 July 2017.

Actions

- Invite at least one CCC member to the Authority's climate change workshop to help guide the Authority in a climate change response and solution (one of the questions at the climate change workshop could be 'how do we get broader community understanding of the impacts of climate change).
- Keep the CCC informed on any significant energy initiatives in the Daintree.
- Consider a new climate change/sustainability focused award for the 2018 Cassowary Awards.
- CCC members to consider how they may be able to value add to Dr David Westcott's cassowary research.

2.5 SAC report to the Board

Iain Gordon addressed the board and updated them on the outcomes of the SAC meeting held on the 25 July 2017. Members had a number of presentations including:

- Professor Bruce Prideaux (airport) exit surveys results from the Cairns region - *Wet Tropics Rainforest Visitors Survey January 2016 to March 2017*, and
- Marilyn Wallace (Kuku Nyungkal Traditional Owner) and Citty William (WTMA student research recipient from RMIT University) on *Climate memory*.

The SAC discussed planning for the upcoming Wet Tropics Climate Change Workshop and the following ideas were suggested:

- attendance to be limited to around 25 participants from a wide range of disciplines
- facilitation by an expert facilitator
- agenda split into two sessions, including a 'blue sky' discussion and then break out groups to focus on questions derived by World Heritage management decision makers, and

- an initial review of some of the climate change interventions that have occurred to date that have potential relevance to the WTWHA or may assist in preparing for the workshop.

Resolution

The Board **noted** agenda items discussed and points of interest raised at the Scientific Advisory Committee's meeting held 25 July 2017.

Actions

- Ensure the relevant outcomes of Professor Prideaux's (CDU) exit surveys are included in the recently approved resolutions in the *Presentation Strategy*.
- WTMA Chair to be invited to the climate change workshop.
- WTMA Chair (and other directors) to suggest questions that could be considered in the focus session.
- SAC to interrogate the Advance QLD website, which highlights a number of possible funding sources to tap into that benefit WH outcomes, either directly or indirectly (i.e. tourism).
- Update board on progress of the climate change workshop at November 2017 Board meeting.

2.6 Queensland and Commonwealth Department reports

Angela Siggery updated the board on recent Queensland World Heritage activities, including the recent QLD World Heritage Chairs meeting in Brisbane. She advised directors of two significant events in the next six to nine months that would provide a terrific opportunity to promote the World Heritage brand, including the 25th Anniversary of listing for K'gari (Fraser Island) in December 2017, and the Commonwealth Games in April 2018.

Alison Webb thanked directors for the opportunity to attend the meeting, and advised that her team were very pleased to be able to attend the recent round of CCC and SAC meetings, and that they were we are great opportunity to develop new networks and share information about on-ground programs underway throughout the region.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the Commonwealth and Queensland Government department reports and **requested** the Authority work with the World Heritage Unit in Brisbane regarding promotional and branding activities.

2.7 Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum No 27

The Chair provided directors with a briefing on the outcomes of the Ministerial Forum No 27, held in Melbourne in July 2018. It was very pleasing to note that both Ministers were well briefed on all of the matters and to observe the departments working in a collegiate manner. It was apparent that both Ministers were supportive of World Heritage and keen to implement programs that continue to protect the values of the Area. It was positive meeting. The Ministers endorsed every recommendation and requested that the Authority:

- work with relevant agencies towards sustainable renewable energy solutions for the Daintree community, and

- work with the State and Commonwealth officers to progress stories that highlighted collaboration, including the work program to eradicate Yellow Crazy Ants within and adjacent to the World Heritage Area.

In her report to Ministerial Forum regarding budget, the Chair noted that consideration be given to indexing allocations, as the Australian and State government funding arrangements have remained static since 2005/2006, resulting in a reduction of more than \$1.2 million per annum if calculated at a moderate 2% growth in costs per year.

Resolution

The Board **noted** the update on the outcomes of Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum No 27.

Actions

- Delete Leslie Shirreffs personal mobile contact from future (public) Wet Tropics communiques.
- Authority staff to with Queensland Department of Energy and Water Supply and ARENA officials towards sustainable renewable energy solutions for the Daintree community, and
- Authority staff to with the State and Commonwealth officers to progress stories that highlighted collaboration within and adjacent to the World Heritage Area.

3.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES AND BRIEFINGS

3.1 Draft Presentation Strategy

Scott Buchanan addressed the board and provided an update on the key issues identified draft presentation strategy. The strategy was workshopped at board meeting #100 (May 2017) and this provided a strong logic and framework for the key principles, goals and implementation actions for the strategy (**Attachment 3.1 (1)**).

Directors were pleased with the direction the strategy had taken and suggested that the Share, Connect and Protect tag lines should be articulated up front in the document, as a way and reason for how the Authority does business.

Directors recommended the key principals and goals inform the basis for the presentation component of Part A of the amended Wet Tropics Management Plan.

Resolution

The Board:

- **approved** the presentation strategy summary document and work plan *'Share, Connect, Protect - Best Practice World Heritage Presentation in the Wet Tropics*, as amended, and
- **requested** quarterly updates on the implementation of the strategy and work plan.

Actions

- Incorporate relevant components of the Wet Tropics Presentation Strategy in Part A of the Wet Tropics Management Plan.
- Use the presentation strategy to partner with NPSR and submit funding bids/submissions for significant investment into regional Wet Tropics capital works and infrastructure, noting there are current opportunities with both Commonwealth Games and 30 year celebrations being planned.
- Work with NPSR (and Douglas Shire Council and Jabalina) regarding presentation (signage and infrastructure) in the Daintree lowlands to ensure consistent messages and alignment of effort.

- Include appropriate action item that implements the World Gateway and (regionally based) hubs concept (AA4).

3.2 Tour Guide review and host program

Paul Chantrill provided a brief overview of the tour program, which has been running for around five years. Initially, the program was developed for tour guides to ensure excellence in Wet Tropics presentation. It became apparent very quickly that interest in the program was broad, and Visitor Information Centres, Aboriginal business enterprises and community groups were also keen to have training. The original program was only funded for a couple of years, and it is timely to review the program to ensure it retains integrity, industry relevance and incorporates the aspirations and interests of Rainforest Aboriginal small businesses, organisations and individuals.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the paper, Tour Guide Review and Hosts Program,
- **approved** in partnership with Savannah Guides provide two course completion workshops on 7 September and 9 October to facilitate the completion of the course by up to 74 participants. Course to include support to finish workbooks, theoretical assessment and practical in the field assessment,
- **approved** continue discussions with Savannah Guides in regards to align the Program to complement the improve EcoGuide program and support ongoing negotiations between Savannah Guides and Charles Darwin University to deliver qualification opportunities for tour guides,
- **supported** support Savanah Guides to develop a work program and delivery material for the Tour Hosts program,
- **approved** as a component of Tour Host pilots, trial workshop with Rainforest Aboriginal organisations with view to developing tailored program to be funded by the Department of Education and Training,
- **supported** the continue partnership with DATSIP to support fledgling enterprises,
- **supported** the Authority to seek financial and other support from other agencies (for example, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Education and Training, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, Aboriginal Islander and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships), and
- **supported** the Authority identify methodologies to assess increase in knowledge that does not rely on formal certification, and investigate opportunities to develop a sustainable funding model for the program.

3.3 2016-17 end of year annual operating plan and budget report

Scott Buchanan provided an overview of the end of year work plan and budget (traffic light report). He advised that staff were busy, and that additional staff were being recruited including a principal science role, a communications officer, and additional support in the planning team.

The yellow crazy ant eradication program is on-track. Although the financial report indicates an underspend (due to circumstances beyond the Authority's control); continued and purposeful investment towards project governance has ensured the ramped-up program envisioned to eradicate YCA in and around the World Heritage Area will continue into 2017-18 and beyond.

Directors noted that the ambitious work program and thanked staff for their efforts, given financial and human resources were stretched, not only to meet statutory obligations, but to maintain a community engagement profile.

Scott Buchanan advised that for the 2017-18 year the Authority would reduce the number of annual operating plans, and that the Wet Tropics Management Plan work program would provide a mechanism to integrate work across the organisation.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the June 2017 work plan progress report (as at 30 June 2017), and
- **noted** the 2016-17 budget summary report as at 30 June 2017.

3.4 Indigenous Advisory Members report to the board

Phil Rist and Leah Talbot briefed the board on the inaugural meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Group (I-AM) and provided an overview of the issues discussed. Both directors were very pleased for the support and coordination provided by the Authority to enable the meeting to occur.

The IAM were very keen for the Authority to utilise their collective skills to assist and advise the Authority on engagement with Rainforest Aboriginal people, for example, the Wet Tropics Management Plan, policy and governance matters.

Directors discussed the relationship and interaction between the I-AM, the CCC and the SAC and how the statutory committees would deal with indigenous issues, given the role of the I-AM.

Directors were advised that the IAM is not a statutory committee, and that no formal terms of reference have been established. They were there to support each other, and to consider cross-cutting issues across the organisation.

Resolution

The Board **noted** key outcomes of the inaugural Indigenous Advisory Members (IAM) meeting held on Monday 31 August 2017.

3.5 Board director waiving of (remuneration) allowances

The Authority has received a request from WTMA Board Director Leah Talbot, to waive her remuneration (sitting fees) for the remainder of her three-year appointment, and that the funds allocated to programs promoting indigenous issues within the Authority.

The Authority advised that a system would be put in place and that had received guidance from the finance unit in Brisbane about how to requested that fees for Ms Leah Talbot would be journaled internally to a new WTMA cost centre and reported against on an annual basis.

Resolution

The Board:

- **noted** the statement from Wet Tropics Management Authority director, Ms Leah Talbot waiving her entitlement to fees payable as a Director on the board from 1 July 2017 up until 25 November 2018 (**Attachment 3.5 (1)**)
- **endorsed** the change of remuneration agreement for a board member to waive their entitled sitting fees from 1 July 2017 up until 25 November 2018.

3.6 Update on yellow crazy ant program

Lucy Karger provided the board with an update on the program, including key challenges. Since the last meeting, two other areas of infestation were discovered: a 27 hectare site at Gordonvale and a site at Swallow Road Edmonton. The size of the Swallow Road infestation is yet to be determined. Delimitation will begin when treatment in residential areas is completed. The team is working with the sugar industry, individual harvesters and the Cairns Regional Council to pursue options to collaborate on compliance to reduce the risk of further spread.

With the support of EHP HR, the Authority has commenced a recruitment drive, which is expected to continue until October 2017. In addition, twelve Bulmba rangers have contributed to on ground works in the Russett Park infestation area. This follows the establishment of the Bulmba Indigenous Ranger Group from a successful Land and Sea Ranger Grant by Djabugay's Bulmba Traditional Owners.

The Board:

- **noted progress of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP).**

3.7 Review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan

Leslie Shirreffs addressed the board and provided a broad overview of the statutory review of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan* (the Plan). To date, over 80 submissions have been received.

During the information-gathering phase, including the first phase of consultation, it became apparent that organisations and individuals had high aspirations for the statutory Plan (which is a 'regulation' in the legal sense of the word). This has provided the Authority an opportunity to reconsider Plan amendments within a larger framework. Authority staff have developed innovative solutions for the Board to consider. This provides for a Plan that will suit the needs of the organisation; our stakeholders and the broader community; our statutory requirements under our Act; as well as meeting our obligations under the World Heritage Convention and UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

Scott Buchanan addressed the Board and advised directors that the purpose of today's session was for directors to be briefed on the feedback received by phase one consultation; key issues identified, and through good discussion, the best way to move forward and find potential solutions. He reminded directors that even though phase 1 is completed, the Authority will continue to consult with stakeholders throughout the process, and while the amended document is being prepared.

Lorraine Briggs addressed the board and worked through the summary consultation document. Lorraine noted that in addition to the 80 plus submissions received, the Authority's website had over 1,600 'hits' on the Plan Review website page, which provided additional information and interactive maps.

Lorraine Briggs provided an overview of the types of consultation undertaken, submissions received and the issues raised, including changes to zoning, mining, the application of self-assessable codes, keeping domestic animals inside the WHA (including working dogs), community services infrastructure, translocation of fish, impacts of climate change, the application of offsets and feral animal management.

The next phase of the work program will include individually responding to the 80+ submissions, analyse issues, looking at zone changes, and consider possible solutions and options, and to commence conversations (and negotiations) with stakeholders, including CSI providers, Rainforest Aboriginal people, local governments and State government agencies.

The board discussed these issues, noting that the briefing from Lorraine Briggs was about acknowledging and considering the submissions, with a view to gaining a better awareness and understanding the context of matters raised.

Max Chappell addressed the board and advised that the Authority is still waiting to receive a couple of formal submissions, including one from Bio Cultural Connections. This company was contracted by the Authority to facilitate conversations with Rainforest Aboriginal Organisations, in particular, Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) and to collate the outcomes of those discussions. The terms of reference for that contract also required the contractor to develop recommendations for the Authority to consider.

Authority staff have prepared a presentation (Attachment 3.7 (3).PPT) that outlines some of the key themes that emerged during the 23 meetings and consultation sessions (to date) the Authority participated in, including ways the Plan might be amended to acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal tradition and Rainforest Aboriginal people's aspirations within the World Heritage Area. Key issues included:

- the need for improved recognition of the contributions of Rainforest Aboriginal people to management of the cultural and natural heritage of the Area, and
- opportunities to consider cooperative management agreements (CMAs) as a potential way to enable social and economic development opportunities.

Leah Talbot reminded directors they were previously briefed on the international, national and state obligations and responsibilities for advancing the recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal people and Native Title holders in the Wet Tropics, and approved a Regional Framework for meaningful engagement with Rainforest Aboriginal People. At that meeting, Directors recognised Rainforest Aboriginal responsibilities in management of the Area and endorsed aligning the way in which the Authority works with rights based approach. This framework would help direct future discussions, and may be useful to include in the broader policy document that accompanies the Plan.

Max Chappell led a discussion on specific matters raised by some of the Rainforest Aboriginal groups consulted. The board discussed these topics in general manner, with a view to gaining a better understanding the context of the issues raised, and noting these need to be considered in more detail, in consultation with Land Councils, PBC and Registered Native Title Body Corporates.

Phil Rist advised that he would like the Authority to work with the broader community to promote positive stories on Rainforest Aboriginal management of their traditional lands, and acknowledged there the need for education to dispel some negative perceptions about Aboriginal

Scott Buchanan advised that the Tasmania Government recently finalised a Tasmania World Heritage Wilderness Management Plan. This document was framed around two parts, an upfront

policy component that describes how they do their business and a second component that includes the regulatory tool. Staff were currently considering how this framework could be used for the Wet Tropics Plan. This would provide the opportunity for the Board and Authority to articulate a contemporary vision for the Area that sets context, policy principles, current strategies and desired outcomes that guide the organisation over the next 10 years.

The Board thanked the Authority for the work undertaken to date, and were very excited by this approach, and they looked forward to an update on progress at the next meeting.

Resolution

The Board:

- **received** and **considered** the attached *Report on Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 1 – Consultation, 11 August 2017* which summarises submissions properly made, as required by section 43 of the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*
- **noted** that the Authority is waiting to receive a number of submissions from Rainforest Aboriginal groups and organisations, including a formal submission from the company *BioCultural Connections*, on the first phase of consultation and **requested** that the same breakdown of issues raised, be provided out of session to the Board, if and when received, before any consultation report is finalised
- **considered** the range of strategic issues identified by submitters and the option to broaden the scope of the existing Wet Tropics Management Plan
- **noted** that broadening the scope will carry resourcing and timeframe consequences if both regulatory and non-regulatory strategies are included in the next phase of the review and **report** back to the board regarding the amended timelines
- **noted** that varying levels of assessment and analysis required to address issues to be included in the final Plan may involve one or more of the following:
 - formation of an internal WTMA project team
 - referral to the Community Consultative Committee or the Scientific Advisory Committee for consideration
 - involvement of one or more State agencies
 - involvement of one or more local governments or Far North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils
 - further engagement with a community or industry organisation
 - targeted workshops or seminars
 - preparation of support material
 - engagement of an external specialist.
- **noted** that in considering the map change requests, an assessment process be established that incorporates consideration of regional policy issues, future urban land needs, specific development submissions, and individual landowner requests, and
- **noted** that the proposed map review process will assist systematic and transparent consideration of mapping change requests.

Actions

- Max Chappell and team to consider the application of Cultural offsets, and how this might be applied to the Plan, as well as broader work of the Authority (i.e. creative resourcing and user pays).
- World Heritage Connections team to develop some positive communication and messages about Rainforest Aboriginal Community, noting that publication products initiatives underway through Rainforest Aboriginal News, e-news and bulletins.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Follow up from site visit and field trip

Directors thanked Girringun Traditional Owners and staff, and WTMA officers for taking them to a site visit to Murray Falls; for the opportunity to walk through the Girringun plant nursery; and to visit the Arts Centre and workshop at Edmund Kennedy. It was apparent from the visit that Girringun Aboriginal Corporation remain an impressive organisation that enjoys a very strong and productive relationship with NPSR, the Arts Centre and the broader community for positive environmental, social and economic outcomes. The board agreed there was a lot of potential to promote the Cardwell area and local surrounding parks as a place for regional visitors to spend time to explore, which should be developed through a proper business case/model in partnership with the local council and relevant tourism industries bodies.

Actions

- Write letter of appreciation to Girringun Board (Aboriginal Corporation) thanking them for their hospitality.
- Max Chappell to contact South Endeavour Trust about opportunities for them to work with the Girringun nursery, particularly around how the nursery can become more involved in tropical restoration projects
- Iain Gordon to contact Terrain NRM, seeking ways for the nursery to be involved with the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project.
- Ellen Weber to send Girringun Aboriginal Corporation the details of the Skilling work for Queenslanders program (traineeships that funds work placements on community, public works and environmental projects (e.g. Skills for the Reef). This could provide some good ideas for Girringun.
- Plan review team to assess need and opportunities to undertake maintenance work on Culpa Road, which is inaccessible due to damaged natural and built infrastructure. This would require collaboration between Girringun, local government and the NPSR, and tourism, all of whom have responsibility and/or interest in the road.
- NPSR (through officer suggested by Alison Webb) to consider resourcing for feral pig management at Edmund Kennedy NP, as ecological damage to the Wet Tropics WHA (vegetation, Jabiru nests) is very visible at the park entrance. Directors noted that pigs are a problem throughout the whole WHA.
- Planning and Conservation team to connect staff at the Arts Centre with organisers of QLD Pest workshop being held at Port Douglas Biannual later this year, as the Arts Centre is keen to promote weed management from an artistic perspective.

4.2 2017 Cassowary Award, including judging of nominations

Directors were provided with update on the Cassowary Awards, including number of nominations received to date, number of categories, options for venue (Cairns or other locations), format for the event, and process for announcing shortlisting and announcing finalists. Nominations close 8 September 2017.

Directors were keen to encourage the high profile partners to attend, including regional politicians and the tourism industry.

John Courtenay noted that it may be possible to use the David Attenborough piece to camera (refer item 4.3) on the evening, and to celebrate Wet Tropics heroes, like William Cooper. Directors discussed the intersect between heroes and the already established 'Chair's Award'.

Actions

- Organise an out of session board meeting (phone link up) to shortlist the nominations.
- Consider ways of using the David Attenborough video on the evening.

4.3 William Cooper Exhibition

All directors are invited to the launch of the William Cooper exhibition at Atherton on 1 September 2017.

5.0 Approval of Board No 101 communique

Resolution

- The board **approved** the Communique for Board No 100 for distribution to stakeholders.