



Board meeting Number 102  
15 January 2018  
Minutes

## ATTENDANCE

### Board directors

Ms Leslie Shirreffs	Chair
Ms Anne Clarke	Director
Mr John Courtenay	Director
Prof Iain Gordon	Director
Mr Phil Rist	Director
Mr Scott Buchanan	Executive Director

### Observers

Mr James Newman	Executive Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Sciences
Ms Angela Siggery	Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy, Conservation and Sustainability Services, Department of Environment and Sciences

### WTMA officers (for relevant topics)

Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Mrs Rebecca Lagerroth	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Mr Chris Clerc	A/Project Manager, Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication
Dr Paul Chantrill	Principal Project Officer, Tourism and Presentation
Ms M'Lis Flynn	Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Ms Patricia O'Lughlen	Team Leader, World Heritage Connections
Ms Lorraine Briggs	Principal Planner, Planning and Conservation
Mr Sean McNamara	A/Senior Project Officer
Mr Hans Wurzel	GIS Officer
Mr Eli Taylor	Project Officer, World Heritage Connections
Ms Kate Thomas	Board Secretariat

Meeting opened at 8.30am

## 1.0 Welcome and Introduction

### 1.1 Chair's Welcome and Introduction

Ms Leslie Shirreffs, Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the country on which this meeting was held and payed respects to Elders past, present and emerging and also acknowledged all Rainforest Aboriginal People across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Chair also welcomed the directors, government representatives and WTMA staff.

The Chair advised that representatives from the Department of the Environment and Energy will join the board meeting via teleconference for agenda items 4.1 and 4.2.

## 1.2 Apologies

Director, Leah Talbot advised she was unable to attend as she had a prior work commitment.

## 1.3 Conflict of Interests

Nil, other than those previously declared.

## 2.0 MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

### 2.1 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 101

#### Resolution

The Board discussed the previous meetings minutes and made minor amendments. Following this the board **approved** the minutes for meeting number 101.

### 2.2 Actions Arising

#### Resolution

The board **noted** the actions arising items as updated.

#### Actions

- Review previous meetings minutes to ensure all actions arising were included and discussed at this meeting. Any anomalies can be raised out of session.

## 3.0 REPORTS

### 3.1 Chair's Report

Chair, Leslie Shirreffs addressed the board and acknowledged the announcement of the Queensland State Election not only saw the final board meeting of 2017 deferred, but after much work from WTMA Staff the difficult decision was made to delay the Cassowary Awards.

The Chair updated the board on recent meetings and briefings including;

- participated in the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples (RAP) Regional Workshop. The Chair thanked Indigenous Advisory Members (I-AM) for their facilitation, guidance and drive in making the workshop incredibly worthwhile. The Chair also advised that she is very committed to making the 10 outcomes put forward by the attendees at that meeting matter.
- attended the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee, at the invitation of IRAC Chair, Mr Phil Rist. This provided an opportunity to discuss board priorities and aligning WTMA activities with reef activities, particularly economic opportunities through ranger programs, tourism and research.
- attended the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting in October. After seeing firsthand the issues being considered and the expert advice being shared, the Chair voiced her appreciation for the work of the SAC.
- Attended a series of meetings with the A/Executive Director (R Lagerroth) in Brisbane with :
  - DG of DATSIP Clare O'Connor and A/ED Land Tenure Resolution Area Ross McLeod. Discussions occurred regarding their participation in refreshing the Regional Agreement, and potential for trials of a land tenure resolution process where native title has already been resolved.

- DDG DNRM Allan Feely about the Regional Agreement, which was positive and there was an agreement to participate.
- Nick Weinert, A/DDG EHP about the Regional Agreement, the management plan (including resourcing) and other matters. A positive response was received about the Regional Agreement and innovative approaches to the management plan. However no traction was yet gained on additional resources from the State or Commonwealth, which may jeopardise our ability to achieve what we hope to.
- Crown Law, to discuss in detail legal issues arising from the management plan including inter-relationships with CMA's, ILUA's, Racial Discrimination and the Native Title Act.
- Was invited to attend the Queensland Cabinet Christmas Function and engaged with:
  - The new Minister for Environment and Science the Hon Leeanne Enoch, who advised she values science based decision making and science promotion (climate resilience was mentioned as a priority) and she saw some opportunities for integrating Arts with presentation and biocultural values of the Wet Tropics. The Minister will be travelling to Cairns early in the New Year so the Chair encouraged her to call into WTMA and advised that we will be in contact to arrange a more formal discussion.
  - Minister Enoch's Chief of Staff (COS) was aware of the Cassowary Awards and advised they had taken on Minister Miles' diary commitments.
  - A good discussion about issues related to employment/economic opportunities for RAP in the Wet Tropics was had with the COS for the Minister for Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills. If potential initiatives arise, both parties will be in contact.
  - The Chair had a discussion with local Member for Barron River and Minister for Fire and Emergency services, The Hon Craig Crawford, who has been a strong advocate for WTMA and the Wet Tropics WHA.
  - Other stakeholders engaged at the function were; Jonathon Fisher, CEO of National Trust, Prof John Cole, Jim Pekin, CEO Queensland Banana Growers, Daniel Gschwind from QTIC, Nick Health (WWF), Graeme Potter from Riversleigh Advisory Committee, Minister Miles (Health) and Minister Dick (State Development).

Since the last board meeting the Annual Report and State of the Wet Tropics Report were finalised. The IUCN outlook report was released and a new WTMA website launched. This has been an incredibly busy time, and the Chair acknowledged the significant work of WTMA staff in progressing this work.

The Chair reminded the group this is the first meeting of the final year of this board's term and a review of priorities and refreshing the board need to be discussed so advice can be provided to Ministers.

### **Resolution**

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

### **Actions**

- Scott Buchanan and Leslie Shirreffs to revisit discussions with Director General of DATSIP and Director in the Land Tenure Resolution Area regarding participation in refreshing the

Regional Agreement and trials of land tenure resolution process where native title has already been resolved.

- Ellen Weber to create a schedule of meetings with new Ministers, DGs and Local Members.
- Scott to contact Minister Enoch's office and arrange a meeting, she will be in Cairns early in the New Year.
- Scott Buchanan and Leslie Shirreffs to arrange a meeting with Allan Dale (Note: Speak to Iain Gordon regarding outcomes following his planned meeting with Allan Dale in January).

### **3.2 Executive Director's Report**

Scott Buchanan addressed the board and provided a review of late last year, as well as updates on the year ahead, including key projects, human resource matters and recent meetings.

Thanks went to the WTMA team for launching the new website, which is a much more intuitive vehicle and although refinements need to be made, all should be very proud of the product. Thanks went to the Chair for refinements on the State of Wet Tropics Report. The release of the IUCN Outlook Report was acknowledged, however it was also noted just prior to release there were anomalies found in this report and the authority worked with Department of Environment and Science Ange Siggery's team to have some errors corrected.

The Executive Director advised that 2018 is going to be a massive year, with a number of key projects including; the Management Plan Review, progressing the Regional Agreement, further joint planning processes with Rainforest Aboriginal people, the 30 year celebration and continued treatment of YCA with one area declared free from ants and the hope more will follow as the team move into post treatment validation.

Scott met with the DG for the Department of Environment and Science and provided a briefing on the organisational structure, funding position and key challenges – it was a good meeting. The DG and new Minister are champions for Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council (WWASC), so will have an interest in our dealings with them.

The Mayor and CEO of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council have advised they are keen to collaborate on their master planning scheme, especially in relation to the southern part of the shire within the WTWHA.

Discussions with Terrain NRM regarding an MOU have not moved, but now they have new staff and changed structure, there is a capacity to restart discussions.

An MoU with Cape York NRM CEO has been progressed and will be sent to the board in an out of session paper.

A number of human resources matters were raised:

- Scott addressed a number of HR matters including staff movement and recruitment.
- One day planning workshop to be held on 31 January to include all staff. The objective is to address issues raised through an Employee Opinion Survey and to foster and enable better integration across the organisation.

### **Resolution**

The board **noted** the Executive Directors report.

#### **Action**

- Executive Director to provide Iain Gordon the contacts for the Boggo Road Science Facility to see how the SAC can work with them.
- Board to be sent Cape York NRM MOU.

### **3.3 Director's reports**

#### **John Courtenay**

Had an opportunity to speak with members of the Community Consultative Committee who praised their Chair (Anne Clarke); however, feedback was received that the committee feel as though they're providing information to the WTMA Board and there's not a high level of reciprocation/response. The Board discussed some possible responses to address this perception.

Daintree Plan – National Parks, Sport and Racing

John expressed his disappointment with the intention of this plan (although it's not yet complete).

Concerns were raised at a recent Tourism meeting. There are two main issues;

1. Fire –John understood that Indigenous people have customs with respect to fire but expressed concern about our job in protecting the Wet Tropics. He said this is a major issue that spans the CCC and other areas.
2. Lack of understanding of Tourism. They made a statement in the report there were 2 nodes - Mossman Gorge and Cape Tribulation – John said that this is not correct, that the product is the road.

#### **Anne Clarke**

Kuranda Kur World; Environmental impact statement is yet to come out. There could be issues around this, however we need to be vigilant about connectivity. They did take on many of WTMA's terms of reference and directors are looking forward to seeing how that manifests. If there are opportunities for rehabilitation, the board should support them.

#### **Resolution**

The board **noted** the Director's reports.

#### **Actions**

- Need to locate and circulate the WTMA response (if there was one) to the National Parks, Sport and Racing Plan for the Daintree National Park.
- Chair asked to revisit minutes from CCC to ensure the board is going back to them with responses and information where requested.

### **3.4 Queensland and Commonwealth Government Reports**

Angela Siggery updated the board on the new Department, new Minister and government commitments to:

- Cape York; Pristine Rivers, the Great Sandy Strait
- A new commitment to support Quandamooka's proposal to progress World Heritage – Note: the Minister is a Quandamooka woman (with family links to Coen). Therefore the Minister will not be involved in any decisions regarding North Stradbroke Island (and other Quandamooka) issues.

- New commitment to comprehensive review of Environmental Offsets Framework. Angela and her team will keep the board updated and engaged as needed.

Updates on the World Heritage (WH) team include:

- A big focus on the Commonwealth Games
- Cape York – likely to advertise position/s in the coming months
- Communications Manager is on board until the EOFY to focus on world heritage promotion ‘generally’ – an initial meeting with WTMA occurred as we want to ensure a collaborative approach
- IUCN Outlook Reports – a lot of challenges with the last process. Commonwealth has committed to meeting with us early this year to discuss process, and provided our letter to the WH Centre for feedback. Hope to influence the process positively to get better outcomes.

Gillies Range Road Update

- Both Atherton and Cairns Regional Councils have responded positively and wish to work with us to address Gillies Range issue. We’ve also been in contact with Terrain who are happy to engage and provide support.
- This is on the work program for the Litter and Illegal Dumping team as we have some budget attached to this project.
- Will regularly update the Board/Anne on progress and opportunities to work together

The Chair advised this was a good example of an issue raised by the CCC being addressed through the Board.

James Newman updated the board on the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service advising that following the state election, departmental changes have seen sport and recreation no longer in the fold,, and now sit under Housing the Public Works.

Projects update:

- Negotiation and coordination of events with Tully -World Rafting Championships in May is underway in lead up to the World championships next year.
- The Cathedral fig boardwalk is now complete. It’s one of three figs on the Tablelands and attracts over 1million visitors per year.
- Doomadgee boardwalk is finished, it’s longer than the original plan and \$1.6million was invested.
- Earl Hill, election commitment the government are looking to purchase this and have DES manage it as a conservation area. Fire management may be an issue.

Projects coming up for funding include:

- Marrja mangrove walk \$400,000 – to renew lower mangrove walk.
- Mossman Gorge \$550,000 – lower length.
- Mt Alexandra lookout \$65,000
- Kulki carpark joint project with Douglas Shire who are investing \$130,000 and state government 160,000 – to redesign the exit.
- Jindalba bridges are getting replaced
- MYAC East Trinity is about to release Management Plan for the reserve, which is a basic requirement of the Land Act. This will allow a move to more public consultation.

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Note: In terms of Indigenous procurement. Jabalbina work with the Department on all capital works projects (in their area).

Other points of interest are:

- Negotiation for transfer of tenure for Eastern Kuku Yalanji lands is in the early stages. A negotiation committee is being briefed on the process. Jabalbina have position in place to start this.
- Working with Giringun and legal team to work-out how to formalise art spaces.
- Pig management (Girrimay NP – Edmund Kennedy section) – since last board meeting, 55 pigs have been removed and aerial shooting in the park will continue later this month.

Discussing fire management, a Wet Tropics Planned Burn Guideline has been out since 2013;

- After working with the WWF for 5 years, funding for fire prescription in the Northern Bettong habitat. EHP ran the program and the guidelines are in use.
- WTMA Executive Director has been sent the final draft for a new partnership with AWC, which includes 7 parks in the northern parks and forest area. Looking to engage AWC to undertake/enhance management activities in these areas – particularly fire and pest management.

## Resolution

The board **noted** the government reports and will include the DoEE report as an attachment to the minutes.

### 3.5 CCC report to the board

Anne Clarke addressed the board and briefed them on the CCC meeting. In light of comments raised earlier by John Courtenay about people on the CCC wanting to see more action coming from this board, Anne believe this reinforces the value of the CCC as a connection to the community in the WH area.

Specific requests of the board arising from the CCC meeting (with a little overlap with SAC) include:

- The CCC has a number of very capable members, including scientists, and they are offering their skills to assist in improving post release tracking of cassowaries, Siggy Heise Pavlov and Peter Rowles would like to be involved and will add value to what is already occurring and report back to the group.
- Climate change workshop: keen that the workshop is not high level science language and that work is done to ensure principles/impacts of climate change on the WH area are understood by a lay person.
- Siggy Pavlov put together a presentation on the 2017 Outlook Report. It is a valuable synopsis of the report. Looks at trends and provides a good overview. This is a good resource to offer to the SAC.
- The fire education workshop was suggested as a way to mitigate community angst around fire. QPWS – have been very good at communicating the fire message, however the CCC get bombarded by communities/stakeholder groups about fire.
- Also mentioned were the Tully Millstream hydro scheme and Indigenous consultation through PBCs.

## Resolutions

The board **noted** the CCC report.

The Board also advised that:

- They take on the CCC's concerns about climate change language. The climate change workshop is reliant on the start date of the new WTMA Principal Scientist position, as this person will have the skills to communicate high level science information in a practical manner.
- The climate change workshop will inform WTMA of potential priorities and actions.
- It appears that the newly elected government does not support the Tully Millstream Hydro proposal (given the information presented by the then Minister at the Estimates Hearings).
- Indigenous consultation, the board is aware that Indigenous consultation should not be limited to PBC's. It was noted that this is the case, however, for the Plan Review there are legal responsibilities for WTMA to consult with PBC's but consultation would not be limited to PBCs
- Leslie appreciates the CCC taking on the post release tracking of cassowaries and to ensure CCC are engaged with Traditional Owners in the area
- Director Iain Gordon suggested from a board perspective – the CCC should have a conversation with Dave Westcott on what advice can be bought into the issue of post release tracking.
- Post release tracking information should be tabled at the next Cassowary Recovery Team meeting
- CCC nominate someone to participate in the climate change workshop. When the sub-committee of SAC are looking at questions for the workshop, they should send to the CCC for tabling.

## Actions

- Circulate Siggy Pavlov's presentation on the Australian Government's State of the Environment Report to members of the SAC.
- A link to the Wet Tropics Planned Burn guidelines is to be circulated to the CCC.
- The Chair to write a letter regarding the illegal dumping of rubbish on the Gillies highway to Councils, thanking them for participation.

### 3.6 SAC Report to the Board

Director Iain Gordon addressed the board on key issues of the SAC, including:

- Research protocol for engagement with Aboriginal peoples of the Wet Tropics. In effect, a draft protocol was provided to SAC (by WTMA and based on the Regional Agreement), who workshopped this and referred it to Indigenous Advisory Members (I-AM) – waiting on a response.
- The Climate Change Workshop will be held after April 17, once the new WTMA Principal Scientist position is filled and settled.
- Myrtle Rust Monitoring - WTMA to act as a resource/data bank and keep a record of this information, so it can be reported and recorded.

The Chair was keen to see the Research protocol finalised and asked that WTMA organise an I-AM meeting at the soonest possible time to consider a way forward.

## Resolutions



The board **noted** the SAC report and passed on thanks to Dr Dave Westcott for his work.

### **Actions**

- SAC to provide a response to Bob Makinson following his letter to the authority.
- Terry Carmichael to provide the SAC an update on the myrtle rust workshop he attended in Canberra.
- WTMA to organise an I-AM meeting to progress the research protocol at the soonest possible time

### **3.7 Significant Correspondence**

#### *Media Releases*

15 August 2017. WTMA. 2017 Cassowary Awards – nominations open

16 August 2017. WTMA. Snap the Tropics Photo Competition

31 August 2017. EHP. Reef protection 'blueprints' rolled out in Burdekin and Wet Tropics

22 August 2017. EHP. Daintree Gateway Precinct Upgrade Complete

10 November 2017. WTMA. Snap the Tropics Winners Announced

6 December 2017. WTMA. Yellow Crazy Ant Aerial Baiting Commences Today

15 December 2017. WTMA. Wiseman Road West site declared free of yellow crazy ants

#### *Public notice*

*Public Notice: Yellow Crazy Ant Aerial Baiting Notice*

#### *Bloomfield Track*

February 2013. Cape Tribulation Road Link – Road Management Plan 2013 - 2033

16 December 2017. Weekend Post. Study can pave way for track to future.

16 December 2017. Weekend Post. First road has place in our history.

16 December 2017. Weekend Post. Bloomfield Track - Councils pave way to have iconic off-road highway sealed

18 December 2017. The Cairns Post. Track blockade threat – council rejects paving of Bloomfield route.

19 December 2017. The Cairns Post. High level support for sealing 4wd track Bitumen 'a blooming no brainer'.

20 December 2017. Cape York News. Councils want to pave new route along coast.

21 December 2017. The Cairns Post. WTMA head says there will winners and losers from sealing Bloomfield Track (*Note: this is not a typo, this is the heading*)

21 December 2017. 4CA FM Cairns. Caller Margret talks about driving vehicles through the Bloomfield Track

#### *WTMA Correspondence*

11 October 2017. Letter to Ms Prue Hewett Daintree Rainforest Pty Ltd. Survey Methods at Cooper Creek, Diwan.

24 October 2017. Sir David Attenborough. Thanks for filming a tribute to Bill Cooper.

3 November 2017. Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers Program. Letters of Support - Wabubadda application to EHP Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

7 November 2017. Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers Program. Letters of Support - Djabugay application to EHP Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

21 November 2017. Tara Bennett, Executive Officer Tourism Port Douglas Daintree. Great Barrier Reef Drive – Trademark

22 November 2017. Linda Cardew, CEO Chief Executive Officer. Invite to Participate in Sustainable Development and Attracting and Facilitating Investment Taskforce.

13 December 2017. All new State Members of parliament. Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – Briefing Information.

#### *Incoming Correspondence*

10 September 2017. Douglas Shire Sustainability Group. Hosting of Daintree Land Holders Kit.

28 September 2017. Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee. Paper 2017-IRAC7-18

16 October 2017. Dept. National Parks, Sport and Racing. Opportunity to submit to Management Plan for Daintree National Park.

12 December 2017. Queensland Government Gazette

14 December 2017. Stephen Oxley DoEE. IUCN World Headquarters. Consultation on IUCN World Heritage Conservation Outlook 2.

### **Resolutions**

The board **noted** the correspondence report.

## **4.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **4.1 Wet Tropics Plan Review**

*Department of the Environment and Energy representatives Sarah Titchen and Moshumi Smith joined this discussion via teleconference.*

Leslie Shirreffs addressed the board and reminded directors that is a requirement to consider all submissions made to the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review. A synopsis of all submissions was provided as part of the board papers.

Lorraine Briggs provided a recap of the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review. During the last meeting the board agreed to expand the scope of the plan and noted, at the time, the Authority was still waiting to receive a number of submissions.

With 91 submissions received and outcomes of all consultations up to 6 December 2017 finalised, the board has, for approval, the Report on the Wet Tropics Management Plan (WTMP) Review Phase 1 – Consultation. Also included in this report are outcomes of the Authority’s consultation meetings with Rainforest Aboriginal people Prescribed Bodies Corporates. The submission from BioCultural ConneXions is still outstanding.

The contract has now ceased and lawyers have been instructed to obtain the intellectual property gathered as part of these contractual arrangements. Despite this, it was recognised that the board needs to make sure that the outcomes of these meetings are included as part of the deliberation.

Scott advised that staff attended 99% of meetings with the consultant and have minutes from these meetings and other avenues will be explored to seek formal confirmation of these notes.

Lorraine Briggs added, although it is not ideal not having outcomes from an independent consultant, to ensure optimum engagement with Aboriginal groups in the Wet Tropics area the following information was included in the Plan Review Reporting:

- Minutes taken by staff who attended 99% of meetings with *BioCultural ConneXions*
- The WTMA Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Workshop, which provided two resolutions.

In addition to the above mentioned consultations with Indigenous groups, 9 Aboriginal organisations made submissions to the phase 1 consultation.

Lorraine Briggs and Sean McNamara provided a demonstration of Proposal 1 in the Framework for Proposed changes to the WTMP 1998.

Lorraine then worked through a detailed presentation to the board on:

- Proposals numbered 2 through 12 in the *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* and
- The revised timeline for completion of the plan.

The board discussed - one by one - proposals 2 through 12 included in the framework for proposed changes to the WTMP 1998 for Phase 2 Consultation. It was the initial consultation process that informed these proposed changes.

Detailed discussions occurred across all areas at the WTMP, with significant time spent on:

- The importance of zoning definitions, which was repeatedly raised in the consultation process.
- Offsets as a permit condition under the plan – the board believes it is critical to have this option, particularly nett environmental benefits. It was agreed more investigation was required. Sarah Titchen from the Department of the Environment and Energy advised she would like to discuss this further with WTMA.

The Chair finalised this item by sharing that the level of engagement occurring with government, industry and landholders, is setting this plan up for success.

## Resolution

The board:

- **Noted** the updated Report on the *Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 1 Consultation – 6 December 2017* (Attachment 4.1(1)) which summarises submissions properly made.
- **approved** the public release of the *Report on Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 1 Consultation* on the Authority's website, once:
  - All information identifying submitters (including government departments) is removed and
  - Corrections supplied by directors and chair are made
- **agreed** that responses to submitters should include advice about expanding the scope of the plan review process and the amended timelines.

For Proposal 2 Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal People listed in **Attachment 4.1(2)** *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* for Phase 2 consultation, the board

- **approved** to expressly recognise Rainforest Aboriginal people in both Part A and Part B in the preliminary sections. Part A should also include guidelines on how the Authority must have regard to Aboriginal tradition when assessing permit applications, and Part B should incorporate, to the extent legislatively possible, consideration of Aboriginal Tradition.

- **Approved** Proposal 3 - Infrastructure Definitions listed in **Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998** to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To include clear definitions for infrastructure appropriate for each of the zones.
- **approved** Proposal 4 - Zone B conversions to Zone A listed in **Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998** to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To continue to liaise with local governments to review local government priority infrastructure plans; and determine if planned infrastructure falls within proposed zone A areas, consider making an exception to zoning rules such that this infrastructure is captured in zone B to allow for future rezoning applications under schedule 1 of the plan.
- **approved** Proposal 5 - Visitor Facilities listed in Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To expressly recognise the Wet Tropics Nature Based Tourism Strategy including the sites and precincts maps in Part A and provide for more flexibility for considering future visitor experiences and infrastructure proposals by amending the definition of zone C to include allowance for provision of tourism and visitor infrastructure.
- **approved** Proposal 6 - Roads in the World Heritage Area listed in Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To propose to amend section 27(c) to allow for operating a motor vehicle on a road shown on a zoning map, where it appears to be trafficable and for which there is no indication it is closed to the public. This proposal will require further consultation with QPWS and other land managers with a view to removing any unnecessary duplication of regulation.
- **approved** Proposal 7 - Application of Section 65 of the WTMP to all community services infrastructure listed in **Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998** to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: That section 65 be applied to all community services infrastructure. This change will be supported by clearer definitions of community services infrastructure and what constitute ‘maintenance’, ‘upgrade’ and ‘decommissioning’.
- **approved** Proposal 8 - Activities Allowed under a Permit listed in **Attachment 4.1(2) Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998** to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: For the Authority to continue to liaise with the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to further consider the pros and cons of the two alternative options to regulate reconfiguration of a lot within the World Heritage Area.

- **approved** Proposal 9 - Aircraft drones listed in Attachment 4.1(2) *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: The draft Amendment Plan to only regulate commercial aircraft (below 1000 feet) and delegate to QPWS staff to issue approvals on the Authority’s behalf. It is not proposed that the regulation of drones are added to the draft Amendment Plan due to regulation under other instruments and agencies.
- **approved** Proposal 10 - Offsets listed in **Attachment 4.1(2)** *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: The Authority in association with the Commonwealth and State, further consider options applying World Heritage offsets as a permit condition under the plan. The board **advised** offsets should be applied, such that they achieve net environmental benefits, but that, where required by the State or Commonwealth, they not be duplicated
- **approved** Proposal 11 - Prohibition of Mining listed in **Attachment 4.1(2)** *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To seek removal of s56(1)(b) of the Act (which allows for mining in the Area subject to an authority under the Mineral Resources Act) when amendments to the Act are sought during 2018 (and to articulate this in Part A)
- **approved** Proposal 12 - Rezoning of Land Under Section 9/Schedule 1 listed in **Attachment 4.1(2)** *Framework for Proposed Changes to the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* to guide drafting the Wet Tropics Amendment Management Plan – Consultation Draft for Phase 2 of the review process: To amend section 9 and schedule 1 of the Plan so that the Schedule 1 process is also available to State agencies, but not including government owned corporations or commercial interests, and
- **approved** the scheduled timelines at **Attachment 4.1(3)** to complete the Plan Review process.

#### **Actions**

- Anne Clarke and Leslie Shirreffs to provide minor amendments to *Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 1 Consultation Report*.
- Scott to provide a briefing to Ministerial Forum advising of the above revised timeframes and the requirement to fully engage with Rainforest Aboriginal people and the community.
- A special Minfo meeting to be arranged in 2019 seeking approval to give the Wet Tropics Management Plan to Governor in Council for approval; and for endorsement of Part A of the Plan.
- Teleconference to be arranged with WTMA, Sarah Titchen (and the State) regarding offsets
- In letters back to people who made submissions, include clear definitions of infrastructure permitted in each zone – as many people raised this issue.
- Progress discussions about WTMA being registered as a referral agency for reconfiguration of a lot in the World Heritage Area. Initially this should be at officer level, if there’s reluctance to support this proposal; send a formal request to Minister Enoch to write to

Minister Dick regarding development applications and WTMA being adopted as a referral agency.

- The Authority's staff will liaise with groups involved in Phase 1 consultations to ensure the notes recorded by staff are accurate.

#### **4.2 Regional Rainforest Aboriginal Gathering**

Rebecca Lagerroth addressed the board advising this workshop was positive. The plan review was the reason for it, but Traditional Owners had an opportunity to speak about issues important to them. The two most significant issues raised were the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement and National Heritage Listing of Indigenous values.

In the workshop upfront information about the phase 1 consultation process was provided. Max delivered a summary of key issues coming through. The North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) let everyone know they are happy about this consultation progress and they want to work with WTMA more in the future.

Rebecca Lagerroth and the board discussed the workshop Outcomes Report:

- On page 43 of the Outcomes Report. The QPWS have been extremely helpful in assisting with an internal audit, which is 90% complete.
- Participants provided clear directions to BioCultural ConneXions. Unfortunately that report has not come through, but we have a strategy to deal with that.
- A closed session report was circulated to participants, and The Authority will seek approval from Traditional Owner Leadership Group to access this report. It can help inform Phase 2 of the plan review.

On page 51 of the Outcomes Report – Traditional Owners in attendance unanimously passed a resolution. Attendees felt the need to have a leadership group involving the Board of the North Queensland Land Council, the Indigenous Advisory Members to the Authority and the Indigenous Director of Terrain NRM, to contemporise the Regional Agreement and provide support in moving forward.

This is a positive step for us in moving forward in a collaborative partnership, with the NQLC, WTMA and Terrain NRM.

Max Chappell and Rebecca Lagerroth met with NQLC in early January and are discussing how to facilitate bringing together the Traditional Owner Leadership Group to move this forward. Looking at dates to convene a group in February. May need to consider an MOU about how to work together in moving this forward in a formal way. Including how NQLC and Terrain can contribute resources to these meetings.

Following this workshop, the Chair and Rebecca Lagerroth travelled to Brisbane and met with DGs and key staff from agencies - positive discussions were had. Need to put things in writing and confirm these conversations now to ensure we're still on the same page. WTMA and representatives from DoEE recognised work needs to be done and requires more resources than WTMA have available.

In the workshop there was a strong advocacy for International listing of cultural values. Although others said they want to meet National Heritage obligations first – mixed views coming through, but Traditional Owners want to collaborate on this.

Director, Phil Rist advised this workshop was a long time coming and well received. Everyone was keen. Phil Rist acknowledged the Chair for attending the meeting – it is the first time a chair attended this type of gathering. The fact the Chair stayed for the whole event, gives people a good indication of this board's commitment to Traditional Owner interest in the Wet Tropics. We now need to move forward and make it happen; otherwise, it is just another talkfest.

When the board raised questions about the resolution, the chair advised that Indigenous people support the Regional Agreement, but want to see an addendum to contemporise issues. Work needs to occur with all agencies involved to bed down protocols. The Regional Agreement informs how we do the plan – this is why both are mentioned in the one resolution.

The Chair went through the outcomes on page 12 and 13 of the report with the board in detail, one of the most important outcomes raised was the support to develop a collaborative funding bid.

Other discussions included:

- Phil Rist highlighted outcome 7 on page 13, regarding permitting. Referring to QPWS, parks should use this to help issues with park rangers at a grassroots level not knowing what's going on at a high level. They used to have workshops to talk to rangers on the ground. Parks should be provided a copy of the Regional Agreement and see how far they've come since the agreement was first written.
- The Chair advised she will be meeting with Wade Oestreich from QPWS who indicated there may be human resources to help WTMA with QPWS aspects of the review of the Regional Agreement and to look at tools under the Nature Conservation Act that may be available in conjunction with the Plan review
- Rebecca Lagerroth is working with QPWS to audit the agreement and to identify policy and legislative opportunities available. There seems to be a commitment to do this, the WTWH is seen as a good region to be a pilot to work on things together. There are a number of different models, but what will work best in the WT that doesn't require significant time and resources.
- At the forum Bruce Jennison talked about permitting process to Community Infrastructure Service providers. The WTMA Planning and Assessment team have sent out information to these groups so they can provide feedback.

Sarah Titchen from DoEE found the report of the workshop helpful. It was very clear what the key messages were and could see where there were opportunities for the commonwealth to step in in terms of guidance. Found the list of outcomes ambitious, however some could be considered elements in the future plan. Would be happy to discuss this further. Leslie Shirreffs advised she and Scott Buchanan would be teleconferencing Stephen Oxley in late January and would be discussing these matters then.

## **Resolution**

The board **noted** the report from the Rainforest Aboriginal Workshop.

## **Actions**

- The Authority's staff will continue working with the NQLC and other agencies to follow up on the outcomes of this workshop.
- Following meetings with agencies in Brisbane, Rebecca Lagerroth to put discussions in writing to confirm conversations and ensure everyone's on the same page.

#### **4.3 2015-18 Board Priorities - attachment 4.3 (1)**

Scott Buchanan addressed the board about the review Ellen Weber conducted across the organisation. Overall, the majority of priorities have been met and are being implemented and monitored, for e.g. SAC and CCC. Some priorities have been met to a certain degree and others have not been met at this stage.

The Chair raised that some board priorities don't align with key tasks, namely the plan review. Leslie concluded that a number of priorities are well advanced, some need to come further and some require more work, the board have 11 months to deliver on this. A future Board meeting could be used to refine/contemporise the priorities given changes/advancements/emerging issues over the term of the board.

#### **Resolution**

The board **noted** the priorities.

#### **Actions**

- Leslie: Would like SAC/WTMA Science officer to prepare a paper for Ministers at the next Ministerial Forum to say what climate change is actually doing to the WHA, what the risks to us are and what we need to do about it.
- Investigate options for user pays, particularly in the creative arts space.
- Update board priorities document, and consider refinements at future board meeting

#### **4.4 2017-18 Annual Operating Plan 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Milestone and budget report**

Scott Buchanan provided an overview of the Annual Operating Plan and Budget Report. There has been a large investment in leadership training, including corporate governance training. IUCN membership is \$11,000 per year, WTMA have made the decision not to pay the membership this year due to the cost and that the state and commonwealth are both members.

World heritage presentation was underspent; however a bulk of funding is going towards telling a World Heritage story in an animated presentation. The presentation will be taken to schools tourism, community meetings and more. The product will stand alone and people can utilise it themselves.

YCA currently has a significant underspend, however the next 6 months will get this back on track.

#### **Resolution**

The board reviewed and **noted** the Annual Operating Plan 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Milestone and budget report



#### 4.5 30 Year Celebration for World Heritage Listing

Patricia O’Loughlen addressed the board and advised 2018 is the 30 year celebration for WH listing, WTMA has sponsored the ECOfiesta (Cairns Regional Council event) and negotiated with the council to have branding and a will launch of WTMA 30 year celebrations at this event on 3 June 2018.

The following discussions took place:

- Patricia advised arrangements are still in the preparatory stage. The theme for the ECOfiesta is; Tropical Rainforest – significance.
- Iain Gordon asked if the board will be provided a draft of the plan. Rebecca Lagerroth advised that a project plan will be put together.
- Leslie advised that WTMA requires money for this event – this need to be discussed further.
- Lots of engagement needs to be undertaken to get groups on-board. A media campaign needs to be created, WTMA wants to promote this event nationally and internationally, harnessing any opportunities that arise.
- Events to be held at different locations in the Wet Tropics. The Chair clearly advised that events need to occur across the Wet Tropics, not just in Cairns. Any other regional events occurring through the year could provide a piggy back opportunity.
- The actual date marking 30 years is in December and will involve a separate event.
- Angela Siggery advised she would be happy to share with WTMA the plans for the Fraser Island 25 year celebrations.
- Scott Buchanan advised that 2018 is the 10 year anniversary of the Australian Tropical Herbarium and there could be opportunities to work together.

#### Resolutions

The board **noted** the plans for the 30 year celebration for world heritage listing.

#### Actions

- Project plan to be created, including the launch at ECOfiesta and a series of other activities to run throughout the year.
- Leslie to meet with Scott Buchanan and Angela Siggery to discuss resources for this event.

#### 4.6 Presentation Strategy – implementation update

Dr Paul Chantrill addressed the board advising it’s been an interesting period of activity for the implementation of the Presentation Strategy the following highlights were discussed:

- Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation will co-host the next Wet Tropics Tour Guide School which will be held on Country 16-17 March, 2018. This is the first guide school that will be held on-country.
- QPWS (James Newman) indicated support for the program and a willingness to support some key Traditional Owner partners in registration, travel and accommodation etc.
- There is a Tour Guide Program Review occurring. WTMA is looking at raising the bar with certification. QTIC and Charles Darwin University are working in partnership on this project. A low cost course is being investigated and at this stage it could be in operation by the end of the year.
- The Authority has developed a new partnership with Arts Nexus, the Queensland Water and Land Carers and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to support emerging eco cultural tourism products and networking. This resulted in an Eco-

Cultural Tourism workshop on 18 October with about 20 Aboriginal participants – which resulted in a number of planned initiatives including the development of a seasonal event calendar.

- Phil Rist advised WTMA to engage with IACA peak body for Indigenous art
- Paul mentioned Arts Nexus applied for funding grants to revitalise their cultural tourism strategy. Leslie advised Paul that Minister Enoch mentioned artistic nodes that identify bio cultural features in the Wet Tropics. Weave a sentence about biocultural value of the area into communications.

Leslie thanked Paul Chantrill for the update and advised the board is looking forward to a seasonal event calendar being developed.

### Resolutions

The board **noted** the Presentation Strategy – implementation update.

### Actions

- Paul Chantrill to draft a brief for Minister Enoch regarding the Arts Nexus relationship.
- Paul Chantrill to contact IACA (peak body for Indigenous Arts) for discussions.
- Paul Chantrill to develop seasonal event calendar.

### 4.7 Update on Yellow Crazy Ant Program

Chris Clerc addressed the board and advised that much has been happening with the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. The team was able to validate eradication of yellow crazy ants from 10.6ha at the 'Wiseman West' site. However, increased vigilance has led to the discovery of another five areas of infestation. He also advised that:

- A large recruitment drive occurred across the organisation with 23 staff now employed and casual/contract staff are engaged.
- The team have a group of Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji people working with them
- Since August new ant infestations have been found around cane areas. The team is concerned there are more infestations out there, that need to be found.
- Trials are underway using an increased 10kg per hectare. This was trialled in 3-4 areas to see how effective it is – monitoring was dampened due to wet weather.
- YCAEP have been treating dry water beds and hand treat where there are standing pools of water. YCAEP have been to look at sediment for traces of fipronil and it has not been found at detectable levels.
- Water crystals – trials occurred. Results are good initially. For example 12 hectares were sectioned into 4 lots, the water crystal areas had no crazy ants. In the 'ant off' areas there are still crazy ants.
- Townsville outbreak team, are getting on top of it, have not heard results following crystal trials. They have a small amount of funding, so will need to drum up more support.

YCA Cairns is supporting Townsville by:

- Providing expertise and knowledge and ways to move forward and engage.
- Biosecurity Queensland are assisting them too.
- Biosecurity Queensland are funding a project to determine if odour detection dogs can successfully be trained to detect YCA. If successful, it is possible that a YCA odour detection dog may be available at fee for service, later in 2018.

- As a priority, all areas adjoining the World Heritage Area, identified for treatment, will be surveyed commencing in mid-February.

Scott Buchanan advised that WTMA needs to initiate discussions about funding YCA eradication past this current funding round due for completion in June 2019 and will be talking to the Commonwealth and State governments about this.

#### **Resolution**

The board **noted** the progress of the Yellow Crazy Ant team.

#### **4.8 Outcomes of Indigenous Advisory Meeting (I-AM)**

Phil Rist addressed the board and advised that the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Workshop to discuss Wet Tropics World Heritage Matters has superseded the I-AM meeting.

A date is yet to be set for the next meeting, but it is hoped to arrange a date prior to the Traditional Owner Leadership Group meeting in February.

The SAC is seeking I-AM input into draft protocols for researchers conducting work on Indigenous land in the Wet Tropics area.

#### **Resolution**

The board **noted** the outcomes of the Indigenous Advisory Meeting.

#### **Actions**

- Next I-AM Meeting to be arranged for February 2018.
- Group to discuss protocols for researchers conducting work on Indigenous land in the Wet Tropics area
- Final draft version of the researcher protocols to be presented at next board meeting, and should include:
  - early consultation with RAP by researchers to get an idea on how they would like the researcher to consult and whether any opportunities for RA participation employment/co-research
  - Reporting back on progress of research
  - Offer presentation after research completed to tell about research findings
  - Recognition of RA involvement in the research project in the report.

#### **4.9 Cassowary Awards**

M'Lis Flynn addressed the board and advised that three weeks out from the 2017 Cassowary Awards, the event had to be rescheduled (due to the State government election). The awards will now be held on 10 March 2018. The 8 sponsors and \$17,000 of sponsorship money is still in place (only one category without a sponsor) and all sponsors, nominees, nominators and other invited guests have been informed of the new date and updated invitations will be sent in January 2018.

The 2017 Cassowary Awards rescheduling has opened an opportunity to change the month of the Cassowary Awards in the future. It's proposed that the awards occur annually in April/May. This will move the awards out of the wet season and lessen the risk of adverse weather conditions, it will remove the likelihood of clashes with festive celebrations and improve the overall recognition of the event. With a seven month lead time, a decision on the future date of the event, should be made soon so preparations can be in place.

## Resolution

The board **approved** the proposed change of date for future Cassowary Awards, with the next Awards to be held in April/May 2019.

### 4.10 Confirm Board Dates for 2018

Leslie Shirreffs addressed the board, who discussed the proposed dates. Amendments were made to the September date and the Chair advised that the June meeting should be held in Ingham, Paluma or Innisfail (in the southern part of the WHA). Iain Gordon advised he was unable to attend the March dates, as he will be in America on business.

## Resolution

The board **approved** meeting dates for 2018.

- 8-9 March – Board meeting #103 (10 March Cassowary Awards)
- 21-22 June – Board meeting #104
- 13-14 September – Board meeting #105
- 22-23 November – Board meeting #106

## Actions

- Invites to be sent to directors for board meetings.

## 5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

### Bloomfield track

The Board dedicated time to discussing the possible sealing of the Bloomfield track, which was raised by the media late last year due to Cook Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council conducting a feasibility study into the sealing of this road.

Cook Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council supported the sealing of the road, however the Douglas Shire Council, who are responsible for the road, advised they would not support it.

A finalised report into this road is the 2013 FNQROC endorsed *Cape Tribulation Road Link Road Management Plan 2013-2033*

The board agreed that our role would be to consider any new study against our Management Plan.

The formal position on this issue is:

- WTMA's starting position is the *Cape Tribulation Road Link Road Management Plan 2013 – 2033*;
- FNQROC drove the development of that plan and all relevant council were involved in its production;
- Any economic feasibility study needs to be comprehensive; in terms of social and economic outcomes as there will be winners and losers;
- In terms of the environment there are a number of things that would need to be considered including the potential impacts of increased traffic flows on wildlife and other WH values;
- Any realignment would have to be carefully assessed as this is likely to have significant impact on WH values.

**Resolution**

The board **approved** a position on the Bloomfield track.

**5.1 Board communique****Resolution**

The board **approved** the Communique for Board No 102 for distribution.