

Outcomes report

Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum
19-20 October 2018
Mission Beach, Queensland



Compiled by the Wet Tropics Management Authority
as a record of the workshop discussions and outcomes. Not government policy.

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Overview

The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum was held on the 19–20 October 2018 at Mission Beach Resort.

The forum provided the opportunity for the Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) to report back to Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and broader Wet Tropics biocultural region on agreed directions from the October 2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Workshop.

This aligns with the Authority's ongoing commitment to strengthen engagement with Traditional Owners and all stakeholders in the Area.

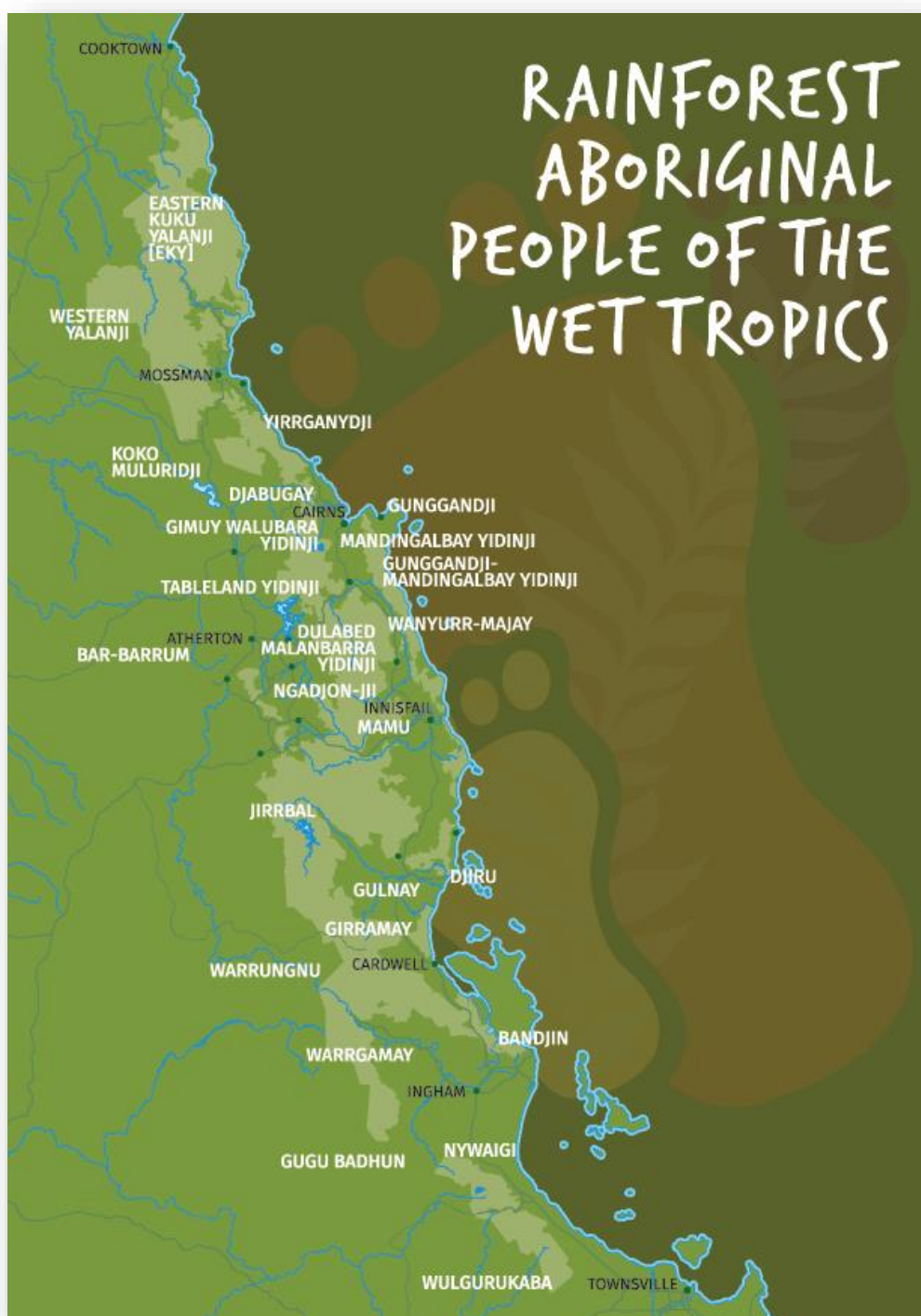
Workshop objectives

- Review and acknowledge the work and significant progress made by the TOLG throughout 2018.
- Consider and endorse the documents produced by TOLG on behalf of Traditional Owners.
- Seek direction on meaningful ongoing engagement from Rainforest Aboriginal People to ensure the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review adequately addresses priority issues for Traditional Owners.
- Discuss Rainforest Aboriginal People's issues and concerns that may have fallen outside of the original scope of the Plan Review.
- Provide an opportunity for Rainforest Aboriginal People of the Wet Tropics region to come together and provide advice on priority issues at a regional level.

Forum context

The Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (the Area) encompasses approximately 900,000 hectares between Cooktown and Townsville in Tropical North Queensland.

The Area spans the ancestral homelands of some eight distinct language groups encompassing some 20 distinct Traditional Owner groups, who today number about 20,000 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples (Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Alliance (RAPA), 2010). These Traditional Owner (or tribal) groups include approximately 120 clans comprising about 600 distinct family groups (Schmider, 2014b).

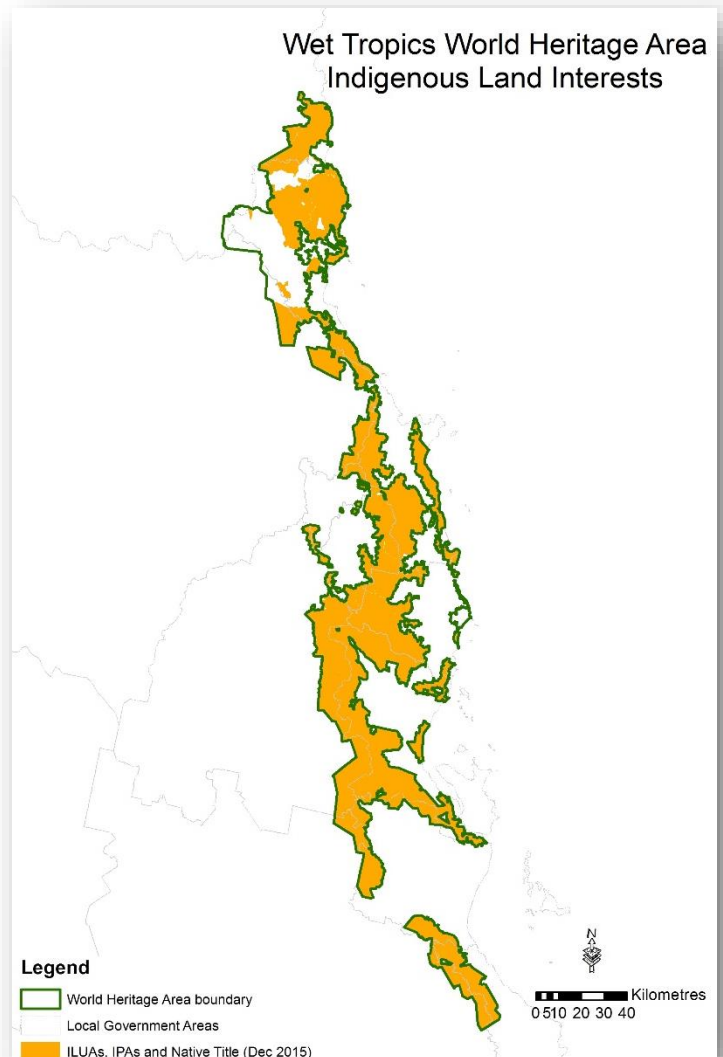


Native title and other Rainforest Aboriginal land interests cover 87.5% of the Area; overlapping Rainforest Aboriginal land interests include:

- 5.3% Native Title (exclusive)
- 32.4% Native Title (non-exclusive)
- 46.9% Indigenous Land Use Agreements
- 29.2% Indigenous Protected Areas (CSIRO Land and Water 2016).

The Authority acknowledges Rainforest Aboriginal People as the traditional custodians of the Area, and recognises their connection to this cultural landscape. The Indigenous cultural values of the Wet Tropics are also formally recognised on the National Heritage List.

The Authority is responsible for ensuring that Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention is met in relation to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Area contains a variety of different land tenures including national park, unallocated State land, leasehold, freehold and a range of reserves associated with community services infrastructure such as dams, roads and railways.



Participants

The Authority acknowledges and thanks Djiru Traditional Owners John Andy, Dawn Hart, Rona Hart and Leonard Andy for welcoming us to country and to all Djiru Traditional Owners for allowing this forum to proceed on their traditional country.

Table 1: Rainforest Aboriginal representatives from the Wet Tropics region

Name	Representatives from registered native applicant groups, prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs), registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), cultural heritage bodies, land trusts, Aboriginal corporations and original Regional Agreement signatories	Tribal/Clan Group
Chrissy Grant	CTG Services	Eastern Kuku Yalanji
Gail Barry	Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	Eastern Kuku Yalanji
Elizabeth Talbot	Yalanji Traditional Owner	Eastern Kuku Yalanji
Michael Ponds	Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	Western Yalanji
Johnny Murison	Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (chairperson)	Western Yalanji
Lyndal Singleton	Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation	Yirrganydji
Warren Singleton	Regional Agreement signatory	Yirrganydji
Barry Hunter	Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation (project manager)	Djabugay
Peter Hyde	Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Traditional Owner group	Gimuy Walubara Yidinji
Dawn Kyle	Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	Mandingalbay Yidinji
Glennis Murgha	Gunggandji PBC Aboriginal Corporation	Gunggandji
Sharmaine Stafford	Gunggandji PBC Aboriginal Corporation	Gunggandji
Helen Tait	Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate (executive director)	
Jai Joseph	Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage and Protection Aboriginal Corporation	Wadjanbarra Yidinji
Rangi Clubb	Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage and Protection Aboriginal Corporation	Bundabarra Yidinji

Name	Representatives from registered native applicant groups, prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs), registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), cultural heritage bodies, land trusts, Aboriginal corporations and original Regional Agreement signatories	Tribal/Clan Group
Evelyn Johnson	Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	Wadjanbarra Yidinji
Lorna Condie	Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	Wadjanbarra Yidinji
Vera Ketchell	Choorechillum Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (chairperson)	Ngadjon-Jii
Fiona Illin	Ngadjon-Jii Traditional Owner	Ngadjon-Jii
Jennifer Joyce-Daley	Mamu RNTBC	Mamu
Lorraine Maund	Mamu RNTBC	Mamu
Victor Maund	Regional Agreement signatory	Mamu
Ruth Miller	Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Jirrbal
John Keynes	Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Jirrbal
Coralie Cassidy	Jirrbal Traditional Owner group	Jirrbal
Marion McCarthy	Jirrbal Traditional Owner Group	Jirrbal
Rona Hart	Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Djiru
Dawn Hart	Regional Agreement signatory	Djiru
Leonard Andy	Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Djiru
Whitney Rassip	Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (IPA coordinator)	Djiru
John Andy (Betty Andy)	Regional Agreement signatory	Djiru
Doris Kinjun	Regional Agreement signatory	Gulngay
Marjorie Kinjun	Gulnay Traditional Owner group	Gulngay
Clarence Kinjun	Regional Agreement signatory	Gulngay
Seraeah Wyles	Girramay People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Girramay

Name	Representatives from registered native applicant groups, prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs), registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), cultural heritage bodies, land trusts, Aboriginal corporations and original Regional Agreement signatories	Tribal/Clan Group
Tracey Dickman	Girramay People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Girramay
Abe Muriata	Regional Agreement signatory	Girramay
Reginald Joe Morganson	Regional Agreement signatory	Warrungnu
Chenoa Gilbert	Goondaloo Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Warrungnu
Joyce Wallis	Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (TUMRA Coordinator)	Bandjin
Jordan Wallis	Bandjin Traditional Owner Group	Bandjin
Melissa Pryor	Bandjin Traditional Owner Group	Bandjin
Tahnee Sibley	Bandjin Traditional Owner Group	Bandjin
Janie Eaton	Warrgamay Traditional Owner Group	Warrgamay
Charles Morganson	Regional Agreement signatory	Warrgamay
Melisa Anderson	Nywaigi Land Aboriginal Corporation	Nywaigi
Patricia Hoolihan	Gugu Badhun Traditional Owner group	Gugu Badhun
Phil Rist	Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Director	Nywaigi
Leah Talbot	Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Director	Kuku Yalanji
John Locke	Wet Tropics Management Authority Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) member	Malanbarra Yidinji
Dennis Ah Kee	Wet Tropics Management Authority Community Consultative Committee (CCC) member	Wanyurr
Kaylene Malthouse	North Queensland Land Council chair	Malanbarra Yidinji
Alwyn Lyall	North Queensland Land Council director	Kuku Yalanji
Allison Halliday	Terrain NQLC board director	Malanbarra Yidinji
Jacob Cassidy	Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation	Nywaigi

Table 2: Forum facilitator and representatives from the Authority, government departments, North Queensland Land Council and Terrain NRM

Name	Organisation	Position
Jim Petrich	Northern Perspectives	Forum facilitator
Leslie Shirreffs	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Chair
Scott Buchanan	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Executive director
Rebecca Lagerroth	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Manager, World Heritage Connections
Brian Singleton	Wet Tropics Management Authority / Regional Agreement signatory	Principal project officer, Aboriginal Partnerships
Alicia Haines	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Project officer, Aboriginal Partnerships
Liam Roberts	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Project officer, Aboriginal Partnerships
Tim Wong	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Manager, Planning and Conservation
Eli Taylor	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Senior planning officer, Planning and Conservation
M'Lis Flynn	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Project officer, Community Engagement
Steve Ducksbury	North Queensland Land Council	Chief Executive Officer
Jules Taylor	North Queensland Land Council	Senior legal officer
Bart Dryden	Terrain NRM	Community Partnerships manager
Vanessa Drysdale	Terrain NRM	Community Partnerships officer
Sarah Titchen	Department of the Environment and Energy	Assistant director, Natural Heritage Section, Heritage, Reef And Marine Division
Greg Smyth	Department of Environment and Science	A/Manager, World Heritage
Trevor Crawford	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Manager, FNQ region, regional operations
Crag Carttling	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Principal project officer, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program

Name	Organisation	Position
Belinda Jago	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Director, Policy And Planning
Tony Kyle	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Project manager
Matt Bogart	Department of Environment and Science	Senior program officer, Queensland Indigenous Land And Sea Program
Amy Eden	Department of Environment and Science	Senior program officer, Queensland Indigenous Land And Sea Program
David Fuller	Department of Environment and Science	Principal ranger, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Connie Archer	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Director
Lisa Castanelli	Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Alan Dale	Cairns Institute, James Cook University	Professor of Tropical Regional Development

Review of the statutory Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 is a statutory (legal) instrument that sets out the framework to deliver our international obligation for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (the Area). The Plan is Queensland law, is required under Queensland's *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*, and only applies to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The purpose of the Plan is to help protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Area including its unique ecological, biological, evolutionary and scenic landscape attributes. It does so by regulating activities through a zoning and permitting system so that activities that may have an environmental or scenic impact may be managed and located appropriately.

The Plan review provides an exciting opportunity to influence the way we manage the Area over the next 10 years, in particular to recognise the significant role that Rainforest Aboriginal People undertake in protecting its cultural and natural values.

The Plan review started in 2017 and phase one consultations are complete. A consultation summary is available on the [Authority's website \(PDF, 1.5MB\)](#).

The phase one consultation process and discussions with Rainforest Aboriginal People and stakeholders highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and strategic management document. As a result, a more comprehensive plan - the Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan will comprise of two distinct but intertwined parts: a Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020 -30 and an amended Wet Tropics Management Plan.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan	
Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020 -30	Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998
Outlines the strategic and broader management functions of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority)	Regulates activities within the World Heritage area
Non-statutory	Statutory
Provides a ten-year strategic plan for the Authority that guides development of annual work plans and communicates organisational priorities	Provides direction on allowable uses and activities in the World Heritage Area, and guides decisions to issue permits and enter into cooperative management agreements

The current Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 is available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-1998-0161>

The Regional Agreement

The Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement (2005) provides a framework to involve Rainforest Aboriginal People in the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. While parts of the Regional Agreement have been achieved, there are still significant commitments that are yet to be realised. There is still a considerable way to go for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples to meaningfully share in the decision-making and economic benefits of the area as full partners.



Original signatories of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement. (L-R) Brian Singleton, John Andy, Doris Kinjun, Marjorie Kinjun, Victor Maund, Charles Morganson, Warren Singleton, Abe Muriata and Joe Morganson

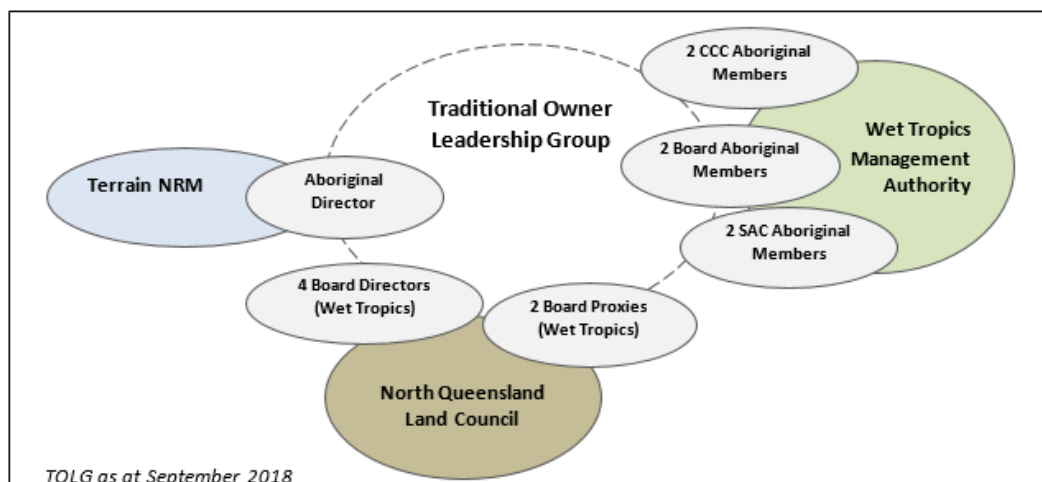
Participants at the 2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Workshop acknowledged the commitment of the Authority and other government departments to undertake an internal review and to clarify roles and responsibilities. A resolution was passed by the floor for Traditional Owner-led governance through shared resourcing involving the Board of the North Queensland Land Council, the Indigenous Advisory members of the Authority and the Indigenous Director of Terrain NRM to refresh the Regional Agreement, without losing the original intent endorsed by our Elders.

A Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) was subsequently formed to refresh the Regional Agreement.

The Regional Agreement is available at https://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/regional_agreement.pdf

Traditional Owner Leadership Group

Following the mandate arising from the October 2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples regional workshop at Palm Cove, a Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) was established, comprising the Board of the North Queensland Land Council, the Indigenous Advisory members of the Authority and the Indigenous Director of Terrain NRM.



TOLG members (as at October 2018):

- Kaylene Malthouse, chair of NQLC and Malanbarra Yidinji Traditional Owner
- Terry O'Shane, board director of NQLC and Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owner
- Alwyn Lyall, board director of NQLC and Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owner
- Allison Halliday, Director of Terrain and Malanbarra Yidinji Traditional Owner
- Phil Rist, Board Director of the Authority and Nywaigi Traditional Owner
- Leah Talbot, Board Director of the Authority and Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owner
- John Locke, SAC Member of the Authority and Malanbarra Yidinji Traditional Owner
- Joann Schmider, SAC Member of the Authority and Mamu Traditional Owner

The TOLG's responsibility is to act as an egalitarian and non-hierarchical strategic regional think tank that:

- draws on delegated regional-level skills-based representation
- retains, wherever possible, regional-level skills-based advisory and supportive capacity
- ensures and promotes cultural capability in TOLG-related processes
- does not duplicate, replace or step in for local level Traditional Owner group representation, RNTBCs, PBCs, cultural heritage bodies, land trusts, Aboriginal land holding corporations, other Aboriginal corporations with an active interest in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- engages the support and skills/knowledge available within the Authority, NQLC and Terrain NRM as required to support TOLG tasks and progress towards the strategic objective
- engages with government agencies and partners to negotiate the Implementation Agreement and to consider options for future resourcing.

The Traditional Owner Leadership Group's current priorities are:

- providing advice to make the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 a document that recognises the native title rights and interests of Traditional Owners
- preparing a draft Implementation Agreement to refresh the 2005 Regional Agreement
- developing a joint funding submission to support implementation of the Regional Agreement.



Thanks

We acknowledge Djiru Traditional Owners for allowing this workshop to proceed on their traditional country. We thank all Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics region for participating at this regional forum.

Sincere thanks to the 80 participants from registered native title applicant groups, prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs), registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), cultural heritage bodies, land trusts, Aboriginal corporations and Regional Agreement signatories who willingly gave their valuable time, thoughts and ideas at this two-day regional forum.

Thanks also to the partners who shared their knowledge and provided technical expertise and thoughtful responses to questions and concerns raised from the floor throughout the proceedings:

- North Queensland Land Council (NQLC)
- Terrain NRM
- Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE)
- Department of Environment and Science (DES), including representatives from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and QLD Indigenous Land and Sea Program
- Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)
- Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

A special thanks goes to facilitator Jim Petrich for making the forum flow smoothly, and for keeping us all on track to achieve positive outcomes while remaining flexible enough to deal with important issues that emerged over the two days.

We acknowledge Wet Tropics Management Authority Chair Leslie Shirreffs, the Traditional Owner Leadership Group and staff who helped facilitate clear directions for moving forward collaboratively. We thank Jacob Cassidy, Managing Director of Mungalla Aboriginal Tours for sharing his and the Nywaigi people's journey of tourism and land management on Mungalla Station.

Thanks also to Alan Dale, for presenting the 5+3 discussion papers. The Central Wet Tropics Institute for Country and Culture Aboriginal Corporation was the body tasked by the RAPA quorum leadership to complete the 2012-15 cultural values project.



Day 1—Friday 19 October 2018

Welcome to Country and opening of the workshop

Leonard Andy, Djiru Traditional Owner welcomed representatives to Djiru Country. Leonard advised participants that the Djiru story is a wet story, not a dry story. He stated that today is an important day for Rainforest Aboriginal People.

Jim Petrich, workshop facilitator introduced himself and stated he felt very privileged to be here as he was a part of the Regional Agreement process in the beginning.

Workshop participants observed a minute of silence in honor of Rainforest Aboriginal People across the Wet Tropics region who have passed away.

Session 1: Welcome

The purpose of this session was to discuss the objectives of the workshop in the context of the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998, and to provide an update on the Authority's efforts to enhance Rainforest Aboriginal engagement in the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Leslie Shirreffs, the Authority's Chair thanked Leonard for his warm welcome and thanked the Djiru Traditional Owners for hosting this forum on country and acknowledged all Traditional Owners of

the Wet Tropics region. Leslie acknowledged it has been one year since the regional workshop at Palm Cove and reported on the Authority's efforts.

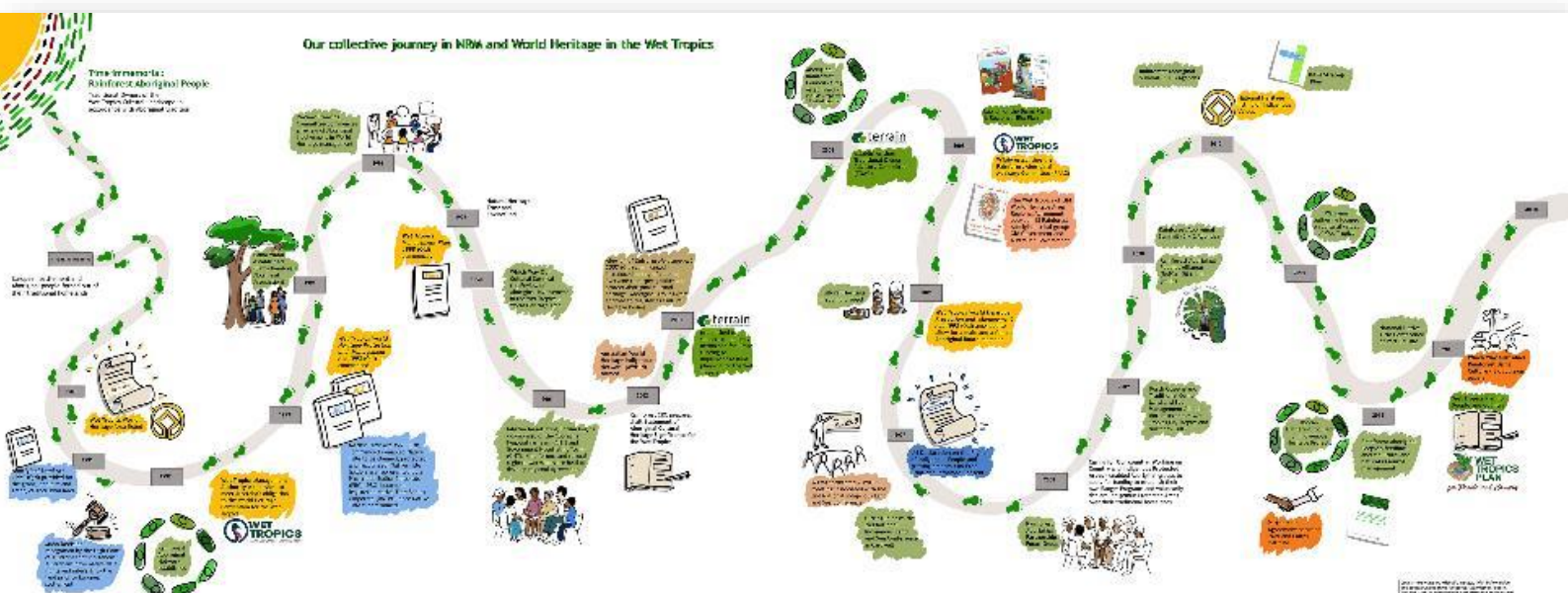
- Three editions of the Rainforest Aboriginal News have been published and distributed, including a special edition celebrating the 2018 NAIDOC theme 'Because of her we can'.
- Second annual People Country Culture Calendar produced with the 2018 theme of 'applying traditional knowledge and cultural practices in the Wet Tropics'.
- Four grants were awarded under the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program for 2018 with a further six made possible through the Authority's partnership with Terrain NRM.
- Seven new land and sea rangers secured for Djabugay and Yirrganydji Ranger Programs under the Queensland Land and Sea Ranger Program.
- Held the first on-country tour guide training at East Trinity, hosted by Mandingalbay Yidinji.
- Awarded two contracts to Rainforest Aboriginal organisations for yellow crazy ant eradication.
- Three positions within the Aboriginal Partnerships team at the Authority held by three Rainforest Aboriginal People, including Alicia Haines who was awarded one of the top ten young leaders awards by the Institute for Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Queensland. Other members in the team include Brian Singleton and Liam Roberts.
- Developed a draft research protocol for the QPWS scientific permitting process.
- TOLG has met five times, and as you can see made substantive progress.
- The Wet Tropics Management Plan review is progressing, and Tim Wong will provide an update later today.
- Attendance to this year's forum has extended beyond RNTBCs to include land trusts, cultural heritage bodies, Aboriginal corporations, original signatories of the Regional Agreement, ranger programs and IPA managers.
- In December 2018, the Authority will celebrate 30 years since the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area was declared. In 1988 there was limited consideration of cultural values, this was before the Mabo decision, long before joint management. Much has changed since then.
- The first land tenure resolution process is underway in Eastern Kuku Yalanji country, which will lead to the return of national parks to Traditional Owners.

Leslie thanked everyone for their time and thanked Queensland and Commonwealth government agencies for their funding support. Particular thanks to the TOLG, the Authority's Aboriginal partnerships team, Terrain NRM and NQLC for their support.

Kaylene Malthouse, Chair of the North Queensland Land Council thanked Leonard for welcoming us to this very beautiful Djiru country. Kaylene acknowledged the Elders in the room and thanked them for the knowledge they hold and for allowing us to continue this important work. Kaylene said she looked forward to further engagement.

Allison Halliday, Indigenous Director of Terrain NRM thanked Leonard for his welcome and thanked Elders for their continuing fight for Rainforest Aboriginal People. Allison acknowledged the 30-plus years of effort and referred to the timeline below.

On behalf of the Terrain board and chief executive officer who unfortunately could not be here today she thanked participants for their attendance. Allison said Terrain NRM is honored to be a part of this process and introduced Terrain staff member Vanessa Drysdale, Community Partnerships Officer. Allison advised that Bart Dryden, Community Partnerships Manager will be attending tomorrow. Allison advised participants that she will be stepping down from the Terrain board this year, and encouraged the people here today to apply. Allison thanked participants and said she looked forward to hearing everyone's concerns.



[Download PDF](#)

Jim invited the original signatories of the Regional Agreement that was here today to stand. There was 10 original signatories in attendance, which included, Warren Singleton, Dawn Hart, John Andy, Doris Kinjun, Clarence Kinjun, Abe Muriata, Reginald Joe Morganson, Charles Morganson, Victor Maund and Brian Singleton. Jim asked each of them what the Regional Agreement meant to them. Victor Maund stated: 'it meant so much to me, that I was prepared to go to jail for it.' Jim shared his story of establishing the Regional Agreement in late October 1989.

Jim then provided an opportunity for participants around the room to introduce themselves and what they were wanting to achieve out of this forum.

Session 2: TOLG progress report

This session focused on the progress of the Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) and provided an opportunity for the TOLG to report back on directions set by attendees at the October 2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples regional workshop held at Palm Cove.

Kaylene Malthouse, Chair of the North Queensland Land Council, acknowledged all Rainforest Aboriginal People present at this regional forum and welcomed partner and agency representatives. Kaylene gave apologies for TOLG members, Leah Talbot, Terry O’Shane and Joann Schmider who could not be here today.

The TOLG is a working group supported and resourced by the Authority, NQLC and Terrain. There has been some changes in membership since the beginning—we acknowledge early contributors Seraeah Wyles, Dennis AhKee, Victor Maund, Errol Neal and Tracey Heenan. The TOLG brings together the strategic knowledge and experience of these members. The TOLG has secretariat support from Alicia Haines of the Authority.

Resolution from the 2017 regional workshop

It has been 12 months since the last regional forum in Palm Cove. There was a resolution to draw on the Traditional Owner-led governance and shared resources involving the board of the North Queensland Land Council, the Indigenous Advisory Members to the Authority and the Indigenous Director for Terrain NRM.

The resolution provide a mandate for the TOLG to:

- negotiate a collaborative framework to refresh the Regional Agreement with all partners, without losing the integrity of the original document
- make the Wet Tropics Management Plan a document that recognises the native title rights and interest of Traditional Owners.

The background to this resolution was about having a ‘strategic think tank’ to develop an Implementation Agreement.

Actions from the 2017 regional workshop to culturally inform phase two of the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review process

An action was passed about finalising phase one consultations for the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

Kaylene invited Scott Buchanan, Executive Director of the Authority to provide advice about the delivery of this action. Scott advised that BioCultural ConneXions, the company, contracted to prepare a Rainforest Aboriginal submission, never delivered report. Every opportunity was provided to BioCultural ConneXions to deliver the report, including extended timeframes and assistance from the Authority’s staff, with no success. The Authority engaged a solicitor but still hasn’t been able to retrieve the information collated or the report. Authority staff that had attended meetings with BioCultural ConneXions were able to produce a record of minutes from meetings to ensure Rainforest Aboriginal People’s feedback was included in the consultation report. Scott apologised to the Rainforest Aboriginal People present today.

Resolution

Traditional Owners gathered here at the Mission Beach workshop express our ongoing and deep concern with Bruce White (Bicultural Connexions) not delivering the report as per the action of the 2017 Regional Workshop at Palm Cove. We demand the intellectual property collected throughout his consultation process for the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review be returned to the Authority for distribution to Traditional Owners.

Moved: Victor Maund

Seconded: Janie Eaton

All in favour— carried

Kaylene advised that the second part of the action from the 2017 regional workshop included eight key points to culturally inform phase two consultations of the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review:

1. Cultural values not 'heritage' – Rainforest Aboriginal knowledge systems, traditional laws and customs.
2. Duty of care.
3. Aboriginal zoning in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
4. Aboriginal management of country.
5. Land tenure related issues within the Area.
6. Income opportunities for Traditional Owners arising from our interests and rights in the Area
7. Culturally informed approaches that strengthen the relationships and understanding the implications of Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, national parks and other tenures and agreement, native title / future acts notices (as an example, the Wet Tropics Management Plan can override ILUAs and local government planning regulations and zonings)
8. Rights and interests of Traditional Owners (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international conventions)

These points will be the guiding principles in the implementation plan to refresh the Regional Agreement and the new Wet Tropics Management Plan.

The TOLG has been heartened by the support from NQLC, Terrain and the Authority over the last twelve months. We do need each other to manage the way forward; and we need to be better informed, open and transparent. The TOLG is hoping to bring other agencies, like QPWS, along on this journey.

Alwyn Lyall, Board Director of the North Queensland Land Council, stated that working with the TOLG has been a great opportunity to learn and contribute. Alwyn presented the next session about the Regional Agreement.

Refreshing the Regional Agreement

The Regional Agreement is a historically significant document for Rainforest Aboriginal People. The process to develop the Regional Agreement was led by our Elders. It was the first agreement of its kind to meaningfully involve Rainforest Aboriginal People in the management of a World Heritage Area in Australia. The Regional Agreement was made in good will and some things worked really well. Traditional Owner groups were able to benefit from the Regional Agreement by developing ranger programs.

There have been a number of key achievements since the signing of the agreement, including:

- recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values on the National Heritage List in 2012
- a second Rainforest Aboriginal person appointed on the Authority's board
- Aboriginal employment outcomes in the Wet Tropics:
 - 39 Indigenous Rangers are currently employed in Aboriginal organisations in the Wet Tropics, with funding from Commonwealth and State Government programs
 - 24 Indigenous people are employed within QPWS in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
 - five Indigenous staff are employed in the Authority
- there are currently three Indigenous Protected Areas across the World Heritage Area – Girringun, Mandingalbay Yidinji and Eastern Kuku Yalanji
- education, training and support opportunities for Traditional Owner-led initiatives through the Authority and Terrain's Rainforest Aboriginal Grants program
- the addition of the TOLG as a way forward.

The Regional Agreement is now 13 years old and, sadly, it has not been properly implemented and some partner agencies did not honor the commitment to the Regional Agreement, although there were individuals in the agencies who were committed and working hard.

Some of the outstanding commitments

- Recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values on the World Heritage List.
- Since the ARC and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance, there has not been any regional leadership forums for Rainforest Aboriginal People to participate in Regional Agreement processes.
- As a result, Rainforest Aboriginal People's participation in policy, planning, permitting and management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area has not occurred in all areas.
- Lack of Rainforest Aboriginal People involvement in decision making for country. Particularly in research and commercial activity permitting with QPWS; and in community service infrastructure permitting with the Authority.
- The free prior and informed consent of Rainforest Aboriginal People is vitally important to the future management of the Wet Tropics rainforests.

'Our young people are wanting to and need to have this connection to country'



The Regional Agreement was signed in 2005 by 18 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups, the Wet Tropics Management Authority and Ministers from the Queensland and Australian governments. We acknowledge the Elders and agencies who signed the original Regional Agreement some of who are present at this forum today.

Back in 2005, Rainforest Aboriginal People wanted to be involved in true joint management to look after country. It was thought the Regional Agreement would be the document that would commit government to work with Rainforest Aboriginal People, like a contract. This idea of being involved in managing country is still the vision of Rainforest Aboriginal People today.

When the Regional Agreement was first negotiated, there were very few PBCs. The landscape has now changed and Traditional Owners are determined, given that they now hold native title rights and interests over the Wet Tropics as they have done for thousands of years.

The TOLG have been entrusted with a duty of care to the region's native title holders to ensure that this agreement does not remain a symbolic recognition of the rights and interests of Rainforest Aboriginal People but becomes a living, breathing agreement that removes the obstacles that currently prohibit Wet Tropics Rainforest Aboriginal People from achieving positive outcomes and gaining stability through economic development on their lands.

These discussions are not new, they are old, and if not challenged and changed now could remain dormant for another 20 years. If we sit back and allow that to happen it would simply be unacceptable. The answers to these difficulties are here amongst us, they lie within, around on paper or perhaps not even spoken or thought of yet—but today is where we will start the work to draw these out.

It is so important that we work together in partnership with agencies to move forward and ensure that our people are able to fully exercise their rights and interests and economic aspirations as the Rainforest Aboriginal People of the Wet Tropics.



Outcomes

To date the TOLG have held five meetings and the following documents have been produced:

- TOLG terms of reference and operational guideline;
- TOLG work plan;
- Draft structure for an “Implementation Agreement”; and
- List of highly resistant problems that TOLG have identified to work through in the next phase.

The TOLG advised that they did not want to lose the intent of the original Regional Agreement and proposed an Implementation Agreement to ensure the actions of the Regional Agreement are delivered. The Implementation Agreement will be a binding document that attaches to the original 2005 Wet Tropics regional Agreement, reflective of the mandate granted by Rainforest Aboriginal People at the their October 2017 regional Workshop. The Implementation Agreement will link effectively, in the common law and in a culturally authoritative and appropriate manner to:

- the Wet Tropics Management Plan
- the Wet Tropics Plan for People and Country (regional NRM Plan)
- the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples (RAP) 5 + 3 outcomes developed 2010 – 2015

The Implementation Agreement will be underpinned by the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and have a strong cultural focus.



Terms of reference and operational guideline

Phil Rist, board director of the Authority, presented the proposed draft TOLG terms of reference and the operational guidelines for endorsement. Each participant was provided with a copy of the draft terms of reference and operational guidelines in the information pack.

The terms of reference outlines, the strategic objection, membership, observers and the roles and responsibilities of the TOLG and partner agencies. At the beginning of the terms of reference, it gives a cultural context to the document.

Meetings of the TOLG will be chaired on a rotating basis and the Authority's Project Officer, Alicia Haines, provides secretariat support. The inaugural term of the TOLG is from 22 October 2017 to 30 June 2019.

The operational guideline outlines the TOLG values, code of conduct and decision-making. The TOLG have committed to hold up to six meetings per annum and two Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples regional workshop/forum, preferably at the beginning and end of the year. Communication is critical to maintain TOLG effectiveness and momentum and to ensure that Rainforest Aboriginal People are kept inform.

Several partner agencies contribute to TOLG resourcing. The TOLG members have identified that we need an actual budget to be in control of it for future.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
What about all the RAPA stuff. It is still out there and hasn't been signed. How much of that is being looked at today. We are putting the cart before the horse. Needs to come to the people first.	<p>Alwyn: RAPA reps will bring that knowledge to the TOLG.</p> <p>Allison: We cannot forget all the work that has been done between 2010-2015, which includes the 5+3 agenda. Alan Dale will be presenting at this forum. It hasn't been forgotten and we will ensure it's considered.</p>
I have read the document and made a whole heap of suggested edits. In the introduction, it would be nice to include the work of RAPA.	Phil: It is an important point but difficult to condense into the document. The mandate was to refresh the Regional Agreement without taking away from it.
There is a vacancy on the CCC	Alicia will email out information to all forum participants about how to apply.
This Regional Agreement has been on the shelf for 12 years. What happened to the money that was promised in the agreement? What happened to the money for the forums that were promised every year and never happened? If looking for money ask that questions.	<p>Jim: Nothing happened over a long period. Given the representation here, there is a willingness to start driving this again. 2 regional workshops will be funded this year, not one. TOLG has a limited life and a decision has to be made about where to go. Need to look into what happens beyond that.</p> <p>Leslie: Last year when the regional workshop supported forming the TOLG, they also agreed to work together on a joint funding bid. That is why the implementation plan is so important to tie to the plan.</p>

Work plan

John Locke, SAC member of the Authority, presented the TOLG Work Plan for 2018-2019 term of the TOLG. The work plan outlines the timeline to progress the Implementation Agreement and the Wet Tropics Management Plan review as well as detailing the activities associated with the Implementation Agreement.

TOLG statement and recommendations

Allison Halliday, director of Terrain NRM, presented the TOLG statement with recommendations. The TOLG recommendations (listed below) are based on the following considerations:

- At the 2017 Regional Workshop attendees directed that the intent of the 2005 Wet Tropics Regional Agreement and its original signatories be respected and retained intact.
- The TOLG has had progressive deliberations during 2018.
- The TOLG has had an evolving working partnerships with WTMA, NQLC, Terrain NRM and others.

- Taking into account specific legal advice requested on behalf of Rainforest Aboriginal People and provided by NQLC to the TOLG during 2018.

TOLG recommended that attendees at the 2018 Regional Workshop endorse the TOLG to progress on their behalf:

1. development of an Implementation Agreement (current working title)
2. tracking of related activities as part of a TOLG Work Plan 2019
3. related engagement of legal advisors and other required fee-for-service providers;
4. related discussions with partner agencies (WTMA, NQLC, Terrain NRM, DES [QPWS], DoEE, PMC and other related agencies) including the preparation and lodgment of a joint funding submission to support the proposed Implementation Agreement going forward, including drafting of a cultural values management plan for the World Heritage Area's nationally listed Aboriginal cultural values
5. a progressed draft of that Implementation Agreement for consideration by Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' representative organisations or other delegated representatives during early 2019
6. preparation of a finalised draft Implementation Agreement for tabling, consideration and potential endorsement at the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Workshop proposed to be held in April / May 2019.

At the end of the TOLG presentation, the participants passed the following resolutions.

Resolution

The Rainforest Aboriginal representatives here today endorse the structure proposed by the TOLG of the Implementation Agreement being:

- the PBC and applicants as the parties
- for opt-in provisions for the other interested RA groups to participate at a regional level
- for a RA parties led, expertise based committee to be established on signing.

The Rainforest Aboriginal representatives here today further endorse the extension of the term of the TOLG until the establishment of the Rainforest Aboriginal parties expertise based committee.

Moved: Victor Maund | **Seconded:** Peter Hyde | *All in favour— carried*

Resolution

The Rainforest Aboriginal representatives at the Mission Beach Regional Forum resolve that a workshop with WTMA, DES/QPWS senior officers, research representatives and TOLG be held before Christmas 2018 to ensure the Scientific Research Protocol is implemented by February 2019; and

That DES/QPWS commit a senior officer as a point of contact for PTUKI and research permits and the Regional Agreement refresh; and

That 2 representatives nominated by the Butchulla people of Kgari (Fraser Island) be invited to participate in the workshop.

Moved: Jenny Joyce-Daley | **Seconded:** Dawn Johnson | *All in favour— carried*

Session 3: Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA) discussion papers

Dr Alan Dale, professor of tropical regional development at James Cook University, presented the three discussion papers that had been written in 2015:

- 'Towards Indigenous-led management' ([PDF, 1040KB](#))
- 'Valuing the values – economic development and sustainable livelihoods' ([PDF, 729KB](#))
- 'Relisting the cultural values for World Heritage' ([PDF, 2.2MB](#))

The Central Wet Tropics Institute for Country and Culture Aboriginal Corporation was the body tasked by the RAPA quorum leadership to complete the 2012-15 Cultural Values project. Alan asked the group to look at the papers and endorse to formally publish the work, noting that it was a body of work at a particular time.

Alan suggested a one-month timeframe to allow Rainforest Aboriginal People in attendance the time to take back to respective groups to gain endorsement. It could be something discussed at upcoming AGMs.

These discussion papers and other RAPA documents can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/RAPA-19>.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
Is it only Aboriginal cultural values?	Alan: Relisting was focused on Aboriginal cultural values but don't have to exclude other cultural values if you want to include

Resolution

That the RAPA documents (the 5+3 brochures and the 3 discussion papers) will be re-sent to everyone in attendance. This is an opportunity for RNTBC's and other Rainforest Aboriginal organisations to consider the papers at their upcoming AGM's (within the next 6 weeks).

Comments gathered during this process should be forwarded to the TOLG Secretariat (Alicia Haines). If there are no responses or additional comments the documents will be considered to be 'endorsed'.

This will be communicated to Dr Allan Dale and TOLG who will then proceed with publishing the papers.

Moved: Chrissy Grant

Seconded: Abe Muriata

All in favour— carried

Session 4: Wet Tropics Management Plan Review update

Tim Wong, Manager for Planning and Conservation of the Authority, led the session on the Wet Tropics Management Plan review. During phase one consultations (May–October 2017) the Authority invited Rainforest Aboriginal People, other partners and the broader community to have a say about how the Plan could be improved. The Authority received eight formal submissions from Rainforest Aboriginal People and additional advice through 29 small workshops and numerous face-to-face meetings.

The phase one consultation process and discussions highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and strategic management document. The Authority has responded and is therefore proposing to include an additional component to the Management Plan which will outline our proposed strategic direction for the next ten years.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan	
Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020 -30	Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998
Outlines the strategic and broader management functions of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority)	Regulates activities within the World Heritage area
Non-statutory	Statutory
Provides a ten-year strategic plan for the Authority that guides development of annual work plans and communicates organisational priorities	Provides direction on allowable uses and activities in the World Heritage Area, and guides decisions to issue permits and enter into cooperative management agreements

Wet Tropics Strategic Plan – what does it look like?

10-year outcomes				
<p>The Authority will ensure that by 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Heritage values of the Wet Tropics are maintained and or enhanced 2. Rainforest Aboriginal traditions and culture are incorporated in World Heritage management and aspirations for Traditional Owner-led management, livelihoods and wellbeing are supported 3. Management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is a shared responsibility of an engaged and informed Wet Tropics community 4. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is recognised as a world-class sustainable nature-based and culture-based tourism destination 				
Purpose and effect				
<p>The primary purpose of the Plan is to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. This is in accordance with Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention. Under section 41 of the <i>Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993</i>, the Wet Tropics Management Authority must prepare a management plan for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan comprises two separate but related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A is the framework that provides strategic direction for the Wet Tropics Management Authority. Part A identifies priority actions, outcomes, policy context and an implementation plan. • Part B is the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 Regulation. 				
Strategies				
<p>1. Climate change and other threats. Respond to the impacts of climate change and priority cross-tenure threats to the World Heritage Area.</p>	<p>2. Support Rainforest Aboriginal People. Promote and incorporate the rights, interests and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal People in the management of the World Heritage Area.</p>	<p>3. Involve the community. Optimise community participation and connection with the World Heritage Area through innovative interpretation, with a focus on education, volunteering and social inclusion.</p>	<p>4. World-class tourism and recreation. Enhance World Heritage presentation and support opportunities for nature-based and culture-based tourism and recreation.</p>	<p>5. Minimise impacts. Manage activities that may have an impact on the Area's values appropriately through a regulated permit and zoning system.</p>
Actions				
<i>(Actions are detailed under each strategy)</i>				
How success of each strategy will be measured in 10 years				
<i>(KPIs detailed under each strategy)</i>				

Strategic Plan - Strategy 2.0: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Rainforest Aboriginal People have helped the Authority to identify a number of actions to support over the next ten years that will promote and incorporate the rights, interests, and aspirations of Rainforest Aboriginal People in the management of the Area. We are now seeking your feedback on the following draft actions:

Action 2.1. Implement a rights-based approach to World Heritage management in the Wet Tropics

The Authority will continue to collaborate with Rainforest Aboriginal People to increase understanding of rights-based approaches, to identify effective approaches and develop possible tools that would ensure rights issues are appropriately considered in all of the Authority's programs.

Action 2.2. Develop an Implementation Agreement to refresh the 2005 Regional Agreement.

The Authority will continue to work with Rainforest Aboriginal People and partners to develop an Implementation Agreement. Its purpose will be to drive a series of activities including attracting resources to achieve outstanding commitments, the inclusion of new partners to the Agreement, and strengthening opportunities for Rainforest Aboriginal People's involvement in the management of the Area.

Action 2.3. Empower Rainforest Aboriginal People's wellbeing and livelihoods.

The Authority will support collaborative actions that positively enhance the long-term social, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions of Aboriginal Rainforest people. Examples include support for ecotourism projects, or expanded land and sea ranger programs.

Action 2.4. Support Rainforest Aboriginal People to exercise custodial relationships between their peoples and customary landscapes.

The Authority will continue to support Rainforest Aboriginal-led land management initiatives, Indigenous Protected Areas and land tenure resolution processes by entering into cooperative management and joint management agreements.

Session 5: Q&A with the Authority

The purpose of this session was for Rainforest Aboriginal representatives to workshop Part A actions under Strategy 2.0: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People.

It was clearly identified that the wording throughout the plan needs to be enhanced and strengthened. The importance of 'shared governance' moving forward is about developing a collaborative partnership, and in co-designing processes that fully involve Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples. The tourism sector has been identified as a potential partner and should be invited to the table. For a long time tourism was focused on the reef, however times have changed and a shift has seen tourism focus on three pillars: the reef, the rainforest and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Resolution

In relation to the Plan Review change wording to be as follows:

- a) **10 year outcome:** ‘By 2030 Rainforest Aboriginal People’s rights, interests, traditions and culture are embedded in WH management and with aspirations for traditional owner led management livelihoods and wellbeing.
- b) **Action 2.1 Implement a rights-based approach to World Heritage management in the Wet Tropics**
The Authority will do this by reinforcing and strengthening relationships with our partners including Rainforest Aboriginal People, and
- Continue to collaborate with Rainforest Aboriginal People, government and non-government organisations to:
 - increase implementation of rights-based approaches (UNDRIP, FPIC)
 - identify and support culturally appropriate engagement protocols
 - acknowledge, recognise and endorse the range of Traditional Owner decision making processes
 - partner with QPWS to align with best practice ethical guidelines to resolve concerns around research and commercial activity permits.
- c) **Action 2.2 Support and coordinate implementation of a refreshed Regional Agreement**
- d) **Action 2.3 Empower Rainforest Aboriginal People’s well-being and livelihoods**
The Authority will collaborate with Rainforest Aboriginal People to ensure positive outcomes, so long-term social, economic, cultural, spiritual and environmental aspirations are realised through:
- support for biocultural tourism projects,
 - revenue raising initiatives,
 - fee for service opportunities,
 - expanded land and sea ranger programs, and
 - other emerging initiatives.
- e) **Action 2.4. The Authority will support Rainforest Aboriginal People to uphold and strengthen their custodial relationships between their peoples and customary landscapes.**
- By supporting Traditional Owner led cultural and natural resource management initiatives (e.g. joint management, sole management or other management models)
 - By embracing Aboriginal tradition and contribution to the management of the Area – e.g. through accessing country, permitting processes, cooperative management agreements, cultural heritage management plans, master plans and other Traditional Owner led management plans

Moved: Lorna Condie

Seconded: Vera Ketchell

All in favour— carried

Day 1 wrap up

The purpose of this session was for the Authority, forum participants, partners and other government departments to give feedback on the discussions held over the day.

Jules Taylor, Senior Legal Officer – Coordinator of the North Queensland Land Council discussed the proposed Implementation Agreement. Jules acknowledged that certain parts of the Regional Agreement have been implemented, but not necessarily in the way, it was intended in the initial agreement.

There are 25 Traditional Owner groups in the Wet Tropics, represented by prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) and other claimant groups. There are also cultural heritage bodies, land trusts and other Aboriginal organisations. The original agreement had 36 signatories who represented 18 Traditional Owner groups; one of the problems identified by the TOLG is determining who should be the parties to this Implementation Agreement. The TOLG reiterated that they did not want to lose the intent of the original Regional Agreement or take anything away from the original signatories.

Traditional Owner groups through their PBCs should be parties to the Implementation Agreement because they are the people driving the implementation. Other interested parties exist, and under the Regional Agreement, there are mechanisms for those parties to be involved.

The TOLG suggested a body of people could also opt-in to be involved. In a legal sense, there are now PBCs that can enter into agreements in the native title process, each individual PBC would need to consider and choose whether they would like to be parties to the refreshed agreement. Jules advised there would be renewal provisions to ensure the agreement is current and that as new PBCs are formed they can also join.

Day 2—Saturday 20 October 2018

Recap of Day 1

Jim Petrich, workshop facilitator acknowledged John Andy, Djiru Traditional Owner and Regional Agreement original signatory who arrived today and invited John to address the floor. John welcomed everyone to Djiru country and stated: 'it was good to see you all here today, god bless'.

Jim thanked John for his words, and advised participants that the aim for tomorrow is to finish up by lunchtime. Jim provided the following summary of the key messages from day 1:

- Reviewed and endorsed the work progressed by the TOLG which included:
 - TOLG terms of reference and operational guideline
 - TOLG work plan
 - The draft structure for an Implementation Agreement
- Dr Alan Dale, presented the three RAPA discussion papers 'Which Way Australia's Rainforest Culture'
- A Q&A session was held to discuss the Wet Tropics Management Plan review with the Authority, agency partners and NQLC.

Most people agreed that they came along not knowing what to expect and were unaware of the TOLG's work. Participants have a better understanding of who the TOLG are and what their role is. Participants also said it was good to be part of a group that was there to work together and wanting to get positive results.

Other business

The purpose of this session was to give participants an opportunity to ask questions, voice their opinions or raise any topics not discussed.

Participants raised the importance of having a representative from higher management of Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) involved in the TOLG and discussions with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, especially as they are responsible for managing national parks, issuing Permits to Take, Keep, Use or Interfere with cultural and natural resources (PTUKI) and research permits.

Participants asked if Scott Buchanan could discuss with QPWS and identify who can be included in the discussions. Leslie Shirreffs, advised that the Authority is in discussions with QPWS regarding a joint workshop to identify how we can move forward with the research permits and reinvigorate the process in the Regional Agreement so that Rainforest Aboriginal People are engaged meaningfully. Participants raised their issues and frustrations around the permitting process.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
Research Permits need more Traditional Owner consultation and actual involvement on country	
Researchers submit very broad proposals and it's very hard to respond too	
The permits should have a process for Traditional Owners to work alongside those researchers	
A lot of testing being done to our animals and there are no Traditional Owner eyes on the process. We want research to share their knowledge. We own that info – we are sharing. Not documented as partners in those processes.	

Often Indigenous people do not have control of the information. Chrissy Grant advised participants that she chaired the Aboriginal Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) committee for seven years where we had ethical guidelines. AIATSIS encouraged people to adopt those guidelines. For instance, Lama Lama had their own protocols for research.

Greg Smyth, A/Manager, World Heritage Unit of the Department of Environment and Science, advised that the Butchulla people of K'gari (Fraser Island) are trying to work through the same sort of issue. There are protocols being developed for K'gari and it may be worth having representatives from the Butchulla people attend the research protocols workshop to share their experiences. Allison Halliday, recommended that participants pass a resolution so that the Authority knows they have the backing of Traditional Owners for the upcoming research protocol workshop.

Resolution

The Rainforest Aboriginal representatives at the Mission Beach Regional Forum resolve that a workshop with WTMA, DES/QPWS senior officers, research representatives and TOLG be held before Christmas 2018 to ensure the scientific research protocol is implemented by February 2019; and

That DES/QPWS commit a senior officer as a point of contact for PTUKI and research permits and the Regional Agreement refresh; and

That 2 representatives nominated by the Butchulla people of K'gari (Fraser Island) be invited to participate in the workshop.

Moved: Jenny Joyce-Daley | **Seconded:** Dawn Johnson | All in favour— carried



Jim raised the Terrain board position. Allison Halliday had mentioned that she will be stepping down from the Terrain board and encouraged forum participants that are interested to apply. Allison advised that an independent selection panel would be assessing, board applications, and making recommendations on their selection.

Rona Hart is on the independent selection panel and advised that it was disappointing that not enough applications were submitted. Terrain have re-advertised to reach more people. To apply you only need to submit a cover letter and shortened version of your resume. There is a video on the Terrain website with more information about the position.

M'Lis Flynn, Project Officer for the Authority, spoke about the current vacancy on the Authority's Community Consultative Committee (CCC). CCC gives a voice to the community; the Authority is seeking a young female Rainforest Aboriginal person to fill the vacancy. The CCC meets 3-4 days per year. M'Lis advised that there is not a huge commitment, although there are additional TOLG commitments. For those interested in applying please see M'Lis for more information. An email will be circulated after the forum.

Participants raised issues around communication, particularly with QPWS. The main concern was who to contact in order to undertake anything on country. Traditional Owners should be contacting the Ranger in Charge (RIC) or Senior Ranger (SR) in your area. Some groups shared that they have formed great relationships with their RIC and SR. Greg Smyth, advised that if groups are having issues communicating with the RIC or SR in their area, the TOLG could invite Allison Webb, Regional Director for Northern Division or James Newman, Executive Director to a meeting.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
<p>We have got a good relationship with QPWS in Innisfail. Recently they had a big burn off in Innisfail and we asked if our Traditional Owners could go along and finish their training and they said no because they didn't want to look after them. Therefore, it seems like a good relationship but it's not that good – they leave us out etc.</p> <p>We feel like we are trespassing on our country when our people are questioned when we walk onto country. We have 25 national parks in our claim and only one ranger hut we</p>	<p>Allison: Hopefully the state of play has changed. A lot of stuff was micromanaged.</p> <p>Jim: We're going to construct a draft resolution after morning tea</p>

have free access to. Our Traditional Owners will mow the lawn where they camp. The real question is who are the decision makers? Maybe we need a resolution from the forum. If the decision makers aren't here – why not?	
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Participants talked about involving the tourism industry in the TOLG, entities such as Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) or others. Scott advised that Craig Pocock from Skyrail currently sits on the CCC and is the current chair of the Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (AST). Craig may be a good contact to invite to a TOLG meeting.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
Does the TOLG have a communication policy or process to get information back to people on the ground? A lot of the people they represent have never heard of TOLG.	Scott: Future issues of the Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN) will always have a TOLG update section.
Do we sent it to everyone in the room, or just the PBCs?	Scott: Mail out to everyone in the room as well as the PBCs. Allison: It's important that you here in the room pass everything on to your mob. It's a two way street. We communicate with our secretariat and she distributes – it's everyone's responsibility for being well informed.

Feedback from government agencies

Sarah Titchen, Assistant Director, Natural Heritage Section of the Department of the Environment and Energy, thanked Leonard and John for their welcome to country. Sarah thanked the participants for the discussion over the 2-day forum saying she now had a better understanding of the aim of the TOLG and that this understanding was very important for government agencies. Sarah said she was very pleased to attend the forum so as to find ways to assist and fulfil the commitments signed off in 2005. Sarah indicated that she works in the heritage area and provides advice and guidance on how to look after and manage World Heritage areas across Australia in collaboration with state government agencies and site managers. She said the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) is a body that could be included in these discussions on the refresh of the Regional Agreement.

Sarah advised that at this stage, her agency is identifying how they can be a part of the Regional Agreement refresh and Minister Price has been briefed on the subject. Sarah advised participants about the Australian Heritage Grants announcement in the May budget. These grants will provide funding to support the recognition, management, conservation and engagement of nationally listed heritage sites. The grants will open later in the year, funding is available up to the value of \$250,000. More information will be distributed through the Authority.

Belinda Jago, Director, Policy and Planning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), noted that there is a connection between land and sea and that's why she is here. Belinda said that GBRMPA would like to identify a way we can work together. GBRMPA has an Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC), which includes Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners. The chair is Phil Rist and Leah Talbot is also on the committee.

Questions / comments from forum participants	Response
Can we access some of those millions of dollars on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)?	Belinda: the GBRF has set up a Traditional Owner interim working group. The GBRF is a non-government organisations and will do a raft of projects.

Greg Smyth, A/Manager, World Heritage Unit of the Department of Environment and Science, stated that he was very happy to be part of this forum. Greg was overwhelmed by the power in the room, and it has been a fantastic experience to understand that the TOLG comes from the power of the people. In creating in the TOLG, with Victor pushing the Regional Agreement envelope, Greg identified that Wet Tropics Traditional Owners are going to kick down doors. Greg confirmed that Minister Enoch has made a commitment to work with the TOLG. Greg let participants know that he would call Alison Webb and James Newman to update them on his drive back to Cairns. Greg thanked participants for the opportunity to be involved.

Workshop Actions

1. The Authority to distribute the maps on the wall via email after forum
2. Alicia Haines (the Authority) to resend the 5+3 documents via email to all attendees
3. TOLG, through the Authority to facilitate an invitation for representatives of the tourism sector to be involved with and attend TOLG meetings
4. The Authority to email all attendees the draft research protocol for their information and comment
5. QPWS to email all attendees a copy of the process for assessing PTUKIs (permits to take, use, keep or interfere with natural and cultural resources)
6. Traditional Owners in attendance to discuss and decide whether they want to invite QPWS to be an official member of the TOLG.

One of the comments from participants was that they need to start including the young people in this process. The young people will be the ones to carry this important work on and pass it on to the next generations. They also know how to get the message out using social media.

A couple of government partners praised the forum and its participants and said it one of the best forums they've been to, where the people worked together to achieve some really good outcomes over the 2 days. The commitment and passion from our Elders that signed the Regional Agreement 13 years ago, like Victor Maund, who continue to be a very strong voice for keeping the Regional Agreement alive has made this forum successful.

Where to from here?

The Authority will continue to support the Traditional Owner Leadership Group to develop a terms of reference, operational guideline and work plan, in collaboration with NQLC and Terrain NRM.

The next Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum will be held in April/May 2019, to table a finalised draft Implementation Agreement. Regular TOLG updates will be published in the quarterly Rainforest Aboriginal News and via email.

Further information

If you have any questions about the regional forum or would like to arrange a meeting regarding phase two of the Plan Review process please do not hesitate to contact:

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