
MINUTES
WTMA BOARD MEETING NO. 78: 10 AUGUST 2009

PRESENT:	Dr Alastair Birtles	Director
	Dr Elaine Harding	Director
	Ms Allison Halliday	Director
	Mr Andrew Maclean	Executive Director
	Mr Peter Ogilvie	DERM
	Mr Wolf Sievers	QPWS
	Ms Veronica Blazely	DEWHA
	Ms Margaret Freeman	RAAC
	Ms Bryony Barnett	CCC

WTMA STAFF: Dr Paul Chantrill
Mr Max Chappell
Mr Craig Bingham
Ms Tracy Laird

Agenda Item 2.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

Director Alastair Birtles opened the meeting at 10.53 am and welcomed Bryony Barnett (Chair CCC) and Margaret Freeman, (Acting Chair of the RAAC).

As there is no Chair of the Authority yet appointed the Directors asked Director Alastair Birtles (Deputy Chair) to preside at the meeting in accordance with Section 28(2) of the Act.

The meeting recognised, in the absence of a full complement of Directors being appointed to the Board and specifically the absence of Director Russell Butler Snr, that the Board is inquorate and that the considerations at the meeting will be subject to approval by a quorum of the Board at a later date.

The Chair acknowledged and welcomed Director Allison Halliday as one of the newly appointed Indigenous directors to the Board.

Agenda Item 2.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Russell Butler Snr, Director; Alena Constantine (RET); Jeff Gillies (Tourism Queensland) and Prof Paul Gadek (SAC).

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

Agenda Item 2.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 77: 11 & 12 May 2009

The Chair referred to the minutes of the previous meeting. The following amendments were made.

Page 11- 4.1 Third dot point second last line –should read: “.. progress report in the form facilitated the Board’s consideration of such matters.”

Page 16 – 7.2 Second dot point – should read “agreed that Alastair Birtles be the new Deputy Chairperson.”

RESOLUTION:

The Board endorsed the Ordinary Minutes of Board Meeting No. 77, as amended.

Agenda Item 2.4 Actions Arising

The Chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting and the following comments and amendments were made:

- asked for clarification of the meaning of: *In Progress; Pending; Completed; On going* and *Noted*. It was agreed that *On Going* was the same as *In Progress* and that *In Progress* should be used as the standard and that *Noted* should not be used.
- *75/5.5 Policy Review Land Acquisition*: the Board noted that this action arising had been superseded by a more recent action arising – refer 77/3.5.
- *77/3.2 Executive Director’s Report - second action*: there is a dot point missing which had been included as the last dot point in the minutes and the actions arising is to be amended;
- *77/3.5 Scientific Advisory Committee*: The status of the first and second action should be prefixed with the status of *In Progress*; and
- *77/7.2 Board Membership and Transition Arrangements*: changed to, *agreed that Alastair Birtles be the new Deputy Chairperson* to reflect the amendment made to the Board 76 minutes, Agenda Item 7.2.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the status of Actions Arising from previous Board Resolutions, as amended.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

Agenda Item 3.1 Chair's Report

The Chair gave a verbal report to the Board on the following matters:

- update on the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee and advised that there has been two AWHAC teleconferences, on 26th May and 5th August;
- advised that he has been asked to be Acting Deputy Chair of AWHAC until the end of September;
- WTMA has taken a leading role in developing a report on Climate Change impacts on Australia's World Heritage properties and that WH properties have been recognised as potentially valuable for benchmarking Climate Change impacts;
- advised that AWHAC have conducted surveys on Applied Research and Indigenous Protocols;
- advised that multi-year funding for World Heritage Properties was a priority for AWHAC members and would be discussed at the next meeting;
- advised that he will be attending the Cassowary Summit and the Expert Group Workshop; and
- advised that he will now be back from Canada in time to attend the November Board meeting.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the Chairperson's report.

Agenda Item 3.2 Executive Director's Report

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean, presented his report, as tabled and provided further updates on the following:

- Tourism Accreditation;
- Caring for Country Bids;
- Green Army and Jobs Funds Assistance;
- State of the Wet Tropics Report;
- WTMA Annual Report; and
- MTSRF.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

Amendment to Executive Director's Report:

New QPWS Chief

Andrea Leverington has been appointed the Assistant Director General with responsibility for Queensland Parks and Wildlife and not Deputy Director General for QPWS.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the Executive Director's report;*
- *noted that it is important to ensure any Wet Tropics Tourism accreditation system articulates with the National Ecotourism Accreditation framework and QPWS permitting arrangements;*
- *noted progress with the Wet Tropics Management Plan in anticipation of further formal advice at the November meeting;*
- *welcomed the forthcoming publication of "From the Heart" and congratulated the team involved in its development;*
- *welcomed appointment of the Executive Director to the FNQ Regional Coordination Committee;*
- *requested that the Executive Director write to Minister Garrett proposing improvements to the Caring for Country program;*
- *requested the Executive Director write to Andrea Leverington welcoming her appointment to the position of Assistant Director General QPWS;*
- *noted the issues raised by Andrew Cripps MP and Jason O'Brien MP in recent briefings;*
- *welcomed the appointment of Russell Butler Snr and Allison Halliday to the Board; and*
- *encouraged the Executive Director to continue to pursue funding for WTMA in partnership with others.*

Agenda Item 3.3 Community Consultative Committee

The Chair of the CCC, Bryony Barnett, briefed the Board on the committee's tabled report and presented the CCC's Discussion paper on Road Access within the WTWHA.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the CCC minutes for 31 July 2009;*
- *welcomed the roads discussion paper and thanked the CCC and working group and Chair for their work;*
- *acknowledged the issues of road access, maintenance and management, as outlined in the discussion paper;*
- *acknowledged and supported the idea of a coordinated approach being required;*
- *referred the road access discussion paper to the Authority for further advice at the November Board Meeting; and*
- *noted the CCC's comments that a review of committees and community engagement should be targeted, concise and costed.*

Agenda Item 3.4 Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Margaret Freeman addressed the Board on the RAAC recommendations, as tabled. The Chair thanked the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee on their clear and concise resolutions and also acknowledged and welcomed the appointments, as Indigenous directors, of Allison Halliday and Russell Butler Snr to the Board..

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted that the RAAC met on 28-29 July 2009 ;*
- *noted Resolutions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7;*
- *referred Resolution 8 to the North Queensland Land Council;*
- *referred Resolutions 9, 10 and 11 to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; and*
- *noted in relation to RAAC Resolution 2, that the Queensland Cabinet has decided that sitting fees should not be payable to Advisory Committee members.*

Agenda Item 3.5 Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee minutes were tabled at the meeting and Dr Elaine Harding addressed the Board on behalf of the SAC Chair, Prof. Paul Gadek.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the SAC minutes from 30 July 2009.

Agenda Item 4.1 2008-09 Budget Status Report, Business Plan Progress Report

Craig Bingham addressed the meeting and briefed the Board on the Budget Status Report and Business Plan Progress Report.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the final 2008-09 Budget Status Report as at 30 June 2009; and*
- *noted the final 2008-09 Business Plan Progress Report as at 30 June 2009 and commended the staff on the lay out of the Report for ease of review.*

Agenda Item 4.2 WTMA Workplan 2009/10

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and provided an update on the WTMA Workplan 2009/10.

RESOLUTION:

The Board

- *noted the 2009/10 workplan;*
- *commended the Executive Director and staff on the workplan; and*
- *welcomed the proposal to provided quarterly reports to the Board.*

Agenda Item 4.3 WTMA Committees and Community Engagement Processes

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board on the WTMA Committees and Community Engagement Processes paper.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

- *noted paper canvassing issues about WTMA's community engagement approach;*
- *noted that the Authority is to undertake further discussion of the issues to guide further development of the proposed WTMA's community engagement approach;*
- *requested that an agenda paper be developed for consideration at the next Board meeting; and*
- *requested that this work be incorporated in the Authority's 2009-10 workplan.*

At this point in the meeting Peter Ogilvie, Wolf Sievers and Veronica Blazley had to leave the meeting.

Agenda Item 5.1 Wet Tropics Vegetation Mapping

Max Chappell addressed the Board.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the report regarding the Authority's Wet Tropics Vegetation Mapping Project and its past, present and future directions;*
- *noted the intention for targeted distribution of the limited edition 30 map sheet hardcopy product;*
- *noted the intention to deliver 1:50,000 scale regional vegetation mapping and information to stakeholders more widely in a digital format via DVD; and*
- *noted the potential for additional vegetation related mapping products that are to be considered in association with the Authority's annual works programs and priorities.*

Agenda Item 6.1 Tourism Industry Liaison Group

Alastair Birtles addressed the Board. The Chair asked that he be provided with the draft minutes of the TILG in future to approve before the Board meeting as is the formal process.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the TILG minutes for 4 June 2009; and*
- *noted the views expressed by the TILG about WTMA's role in tourism accreditation and Indigenous tourism.*

Agenda Item 6.2 Conservation Sector Liaison Group

- Elaine Harding presented her report, as tabled.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the CSLG minutes of 27 July 2009;*
- *noted the CSLG suggestion that WTMA develop a Terms of Reference for Board consideration of its proposals to review committees and community engagement;*
- *noted the continued concerns of the CSLG about cassowary deaths on Mission Beach roads and lack of timely appointments to the WTMA Board; and*
- *instructed the Authority to monitor the progress of Sustainable Planning Bill and its implications for World Heritage and cultural values.*

Agenda Item 6.3 Cassowary Recovery Team

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting and gave the Board a briefing on the outcomes of the meeting of the Cassowary Recovery Team held on 26 June 2009.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- *noted the minutes of the first meeting of the Cassowary Recovery Team (CRT) held on Friday 26 June 2009;*
- *noted the Terms of Reference;*
- *noted that a Cassowary Summit will be held on Tuesday 8 September at the Tanks Art Centre, Edge Hill, Cairns;*
- *congratulated the Authority on taking the lead in convening the Cassowary Recovery Team; and*

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated

- *reaffirmed that the recovery of our iconic but endangered cassowary is central to the protection of the outstanding universal values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.*

Agenda Item 7.1 Future Meeting Dates

Elaine Harding advised that she will be overseas from September 22nd to November 7th and that she will not be attending the SAC, CSLG or Cassowary Awards, however will return in time to attend the November Board Meeting.

An out of session Cassowary Awards nomination board paper was being prepared for distribution and a meeting was proposed in Cairns on either September 8th or 9th to correspond with the Cassowary Summit.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the proposed dates for meetings to be held for the remainder of 2009.

Advisory Committee/Liaison Group	Dates
Scientific Advisory Committee	14 – 15 October 2009
Community Consultative Committee	30 October 2009
Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee	3-4 November 2009
Tourism Industry Liaison Group	1 October 2009
Conservation Sector Liaison Group	26 October 2009

The meeting closed at 5.07 pm.

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Dr Alastair Birtles
Deputy Chair

Dated