MINUTES WTMA BOARD MEETING NO. 82: 9 & 10 AUGUST 2010

PRESENT:	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine	Chair
	Ms Allison Halliday	Director
	Mr Russell Butler (Snr)	Director
	Dr Alastair Birtles	Director
	Dr Elaine Harding	Director (Tuesday only)
	Mr Andrew Maclean	Executive Director (Tuesday only)
	Cnr Julia Leu	Director
OBSERVERS:	Ms Veronica Blazely	DEWHA
	Mr Peter Ogilvie	QPWS/DERM
	Mr Wolf Sievers	QPWS/DERM Observer
	Mr Jeff Gillies	Tourism Queensland (Tuesday only)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms Bryony Barnett	Chair CCC
	Professor Paul Gadek	Chair SAC
	Mr Troy Wyles Whelan	Chair RAAC
	Dr. Russell Reichelt	Chairman and Chief Executive
		GBRMPA (11.30 – 1pm Tuesday)
	Senator Jan McLucas	Senator for Queensland
		(12 – 2.30pm Tuesday)
WTMA STAFF:	Dr Paul Chantrill	
	Mr Max Chappell	
	Mr Nigel Hedgcock	
	Ms Ellen Weber	
	Ms Tracy Laird	

Agenda Item 1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 9.25 am and welcomed Veronica Blazely (DEWHA), Peter Ogilvie and Wolf Sievers (QPWS/DERM), Bryony Barnett (Chair CCC), Prof. Paul Gadek (Chair SAC) and Mr Troy Wyles Whelan (A/Chair RAAC).

The Chair warmly welcomed Cr. Julia Leu to her first WTMA Board meeting and noted that this is the first time the Authority has had a fully populated Board of Directors since 2008.

The Chair then referred the Board to RAAC Agenda item 2.5 recommending that Mr Troy Wyles-Whelan be endorsed as the Chair of RAAC. The Board subsequently endorsed the RAAC recommendation which enabled Mr Wyles Whelan to contribute more fully to the Board's discussions.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine Chair	Dated:
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Agenda Item 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alena Constantine, Department of Resource Energy and Tourism.

The Chair advised that Dr Elaine Harding and Mr Andrew Maclean would be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday only.

Agenda Item 1.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 81: 10 & 11 May 2010

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

• Agenda item 3.3 (p.11) - the consideration to be amended to read Director, Integrated Planning, Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Directors accepted the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- confirmed the In Camera and Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 81 as amended; and
- adopted the considerations of meeting No. 81 as resolutions.

Agenda Item 1.4 Actions Arising

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

- 77/Abolition of Ministerial Council Veronica Blazely advised that Ministerial Council will remain in place pending its proposed abolition via the next (2011) EPOLA Bill.
- 81/2.5 Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee Allison Halliday confirmed that she had been accepted as an AWHIN representative to the AWHAC;

RESOLUTION:

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

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Agenda Item 2.1 Chair's Report

Professor Valentine gave a verbal report to the Board on the following matters:

- Chair met with the Mr. Bill Calderwood, the Chair of the Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (AST) to reconfirm WTMA support for the tourism industry in presenting World Heritage values;
- Chair presented a keynote address at the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Wet Tropics
 Cultural and Natural Resources Management Summit in Cairns on 5 July. The
 summit was a gathering of selected Traditional Owners and Elders as well as
 government agencies. The aim of the summit was to progress the participation and
 coordinated investment of Traditional Owners in land and sea NRM management
 and economic development throughout the region;
- Chair will represent the Authority at the JCU Fulbright Symposium in Cairns on the 19-20 August. The Authority has sponsored a panel to discuss lessons learned from 20 years of World Heritage management; and
- Chair expressed concern regarding the uncertain future of continued Commonwealth funding for Wet Tropics rainforest research.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the Chair's report.

Agenda Item 2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports

The Chair invited Board Directors to provide comments or advice.

Alastair Birtles

- participated in an AWHAC executive teleconference on 30 July to prepare for the annual face-to-face meeting set for 11-13 August. This larger meeting will take place at the Gondwana WHA. Key agenda items for discussion include the development of Statement of Outstanding Universal Values and UNESCO Periodic Reporting; and
- has been in the field for extended periods of time since the May Board meeting researching Minke whales.

Julia Leu

- was honoured to be appointed as a WTMA Director and looked forward to working with the Authority to protect the natural and cultural values of the Area;
- prior to being elected as a councillor for Cairns Regional Council in 2008, had 14
 years experience with Douglas Shire Council with a focus on community
 engagement and in the economic management area;

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- has a long history of involvement with WH issues and was previously employed by the Douglas Shire Council to develop their first sustainable tourism strategy;
- continues to be involved with local government issues as a Councillor for the Cairns Regional Council. Key interests include sustainable planning under the Sustainable Planning Act and local government implementation; and
- advised that she currently is serving on two national committees. This includes being one of the two local government representatives on the Seachange Taskforce which, among other issues looks at population pressures, coastal growth and climate change and she is also a member of the Iconic Places Panel.

Allison Halliday

 advised the Board that she was currently following up on the status of the letter sent by RAAC to Terrain NRM, JCU and the Christensen Foundation requesting copies of the cultural heritage mapping project (CHMP) documentation including the Intellectual Property guidelines as they may have potential application to the AWHIN intellectual property working group.

Russell Butler Snr

advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) have
 established a local indigenous advisory group (of which he is a member) to advise
 and monitor cultural impacts relating to the Cardwell Range Highway overpass
 upgrade. The group also undertakes seed collecting for future rehabilitation works.

Several observers also updated the Board, as follows:

Peter Ogilvie

- advised the Board that DERM and QPWS had completed their public consultation on the proposed extension to the Fraser Island World Heritage Area; and
- Fraser Island and Gondwana WHA statutory advisory committees remain uncertain of their future post June 30 2010, as they have not received any advice from Minister Garrett if they will receive continued funding to operate.

Veronica Blazely

• advised that the Commonwealth Government was in caretaker mode and that the Federal election date was set for 21 August 2010.

Wolf Sievers

- advised that QPWS has begun their yearly fire management program and would be advising local communities as burning happens; and
- the upgrade of the board walk at Mossman Gorge continues. Visitation to the area has been particularly high this season.

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RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.

Agenda Item 2.3 Executive Director's report [This Agenda Item postponed to Tuesday]

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean presented his report and made the following comments:

- WTMA was actively pursuing participation in the design and delivery of future research hubs role to ensure a continued focus on wet tropics research needs in line with the priorities in the WTMA research strategy
- welcomed new employee, Mr Neville Reis to the Authority. Recruitment processes
 are currently underway for a number of other full-time and temporary positions
 including Senior Administration Officer, Senior Project Officer and Senior
 Planning Officer; and
- attended a meeting in Brisbane on the 10 August 2010 to meet with government, research and management leaders research leaders to set priorities for the future QLD R&D agenda.

RESOLUTION:

- That the Board notes the Executive Director's report; and
- requested the Executive Director prepare a letter of thanks to Craig Bingham and Karen Franklin on behalf of the Directors to thank them for their contribution to WTMA during their employment.

Agenda Item 2.4 Community Consultative Committee

The Chair of the CCC, Bryony Barnett, presented the CCC minutes. She advised of the following points of interest and concern:

- CCC met on Friday 9 July 2010. The meeting was poorly attended with only nine people present (16 apologies). The members present agreed it was time for reinvigorating the CCC structure and operating guidelines; including considering opportunities for the committee to have advisory responsibilities to DERM; and
- advised CCC would review the new approach adopted by the Board regarding the early involvement of the CCC in the preparation of Board papers.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine Chair	Dated:	

Board members thanked Bryony Barnett for her report and opened up a discussion about the current statutory role for the Authority inside the WHA and its limited scope for regulating activities outside the WHA. They recognised that the regional community expected to be able to enjoy and use the area in various ways and that recent tenure and boundary changes of State Forest area sometimes resulted in the loss of a previously permitted activities such as horse riding, bee keeping, seed collecting and other uses of forestry products.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the CCC minutes for the 9 July 2010
- noted that the CCC continued to discuss the review of CCC structure and will continue to provide input into the discussions;
- noted the concern of members regarding the forest transfer process and its impact on horse riding outside the WHA;
- requested the Authority to prepare a discussion paper on implications of the Wet Tropics State Forest Transfer process (both within and adjacent the expanded protected area estate) with respect to natural resource use and other nature based activities; and
- approves a further extension of CCC memberships until 30 March 2011.

Agenda Item 2.5 Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Troy Wyles Whelan addressed the Board on the RAAC recommendations tabled at the meeting. Troy made the following additional comments:

- provided an update on the current status of the RAAC review and noted that the Terrain Traditional Owner Advisory Committee (TOAC) has also been recently reviewed:
- noted that the final minutes from the three-day joint RAAC/TOAC meeting had been sent to the Board prior to the meeting; and
- the RAAC and TOAC discussed WTMA Board agenda item 6.2 (Review of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee) at some length and had developed a resolution on the matter.

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The Chair requested the Board consider the RAAC review be addressed at agenda item 6.2 the following day.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted that the RAAC met on 28-30 June 2010;
- endorsed the nomination of Mr Troy Wyles Whelan to the position of RAAC Chair;
- welcomed Troy to the position; and
- noted RAAC Recommendation 2.

Agenda Item 2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee Prof. Paul Gadek addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the SAC discussed a number of issues at the June meeting including the Wet Tropics Research Strategy, MTSRF research and UNESCO Periodic Reporting;
- as part of the review of the SAC Operational Guidelines, the SAC provided its views on committee structure and function and the review would be an agenda item at its next meeting on September 13; and
- SAC members received advice that at the upcoming Birds Australia National Conference (Townville August 14-15) that the status of a number of birds, including the southern cassowary, were being reviewed using IUCN criteria. Initial advice suggests this review may result in a recommendation to DEWHA that the southern cassowary be removed from the threatened list. Little other information was available at this point in time.

The Board requested the Authority seek additional information from Birds Australia in the first instance and for the matter to be addressed at the next SAC for further advice and consideration by the Board, if necessary OOS. The Board requested advice on the risk and implications of any delisting at the State, Commonwealth and IUCN level.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the SAC minutes from 9 June 2010;
- requested that the Authority investigate the situation regarding the potential recommendation for revising the endangered status of the southern cassowary and reports back to the Board; and

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• approves a further extension of SAC membership until 30 March 2011 pending finalisation of review of SAC Operational Guidelines.

Agenda Item 3.1 Situation and Issues Report - Protection

Max Chappell addressed the meeting and gave updates on the following:

- the Authority is awaiting a response from DTMR regarding offsets for the proposed upgrade of the Captain Cook Highway near Tin Creek, Wangetti; and
- the Authority issued a permit to the Cairns Regional Council for an upgrade to the Mason Creek road crossing.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

• noted the situation report relating to 'protection' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Agenda Item 3.2 Wet Tropics Management Plan

Max Chappell addressed the Board on the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan and subsequent preparation of the *Wet Tropics Amendment Plan 2010*.

The Board congratulated Max and his colleagues on this significant milestone in finalising the Wet Tropics Amendment Plan for Ministerial Council consideration. The Board expressed its view that the Authority had given due consideration to all submissions properly made and agreed with the actions taken in response to such submissions.

RESOLUTION:

The Board recommends the following be given to Ministerial Council as required under section 46 Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993:

- a copy of the final Wet Tropics Amendment Plan 2010;
- a copy of the Wet Tropics Management Plan zoning map series WTP2; and
- a copy of the report on submissions properly made in relation to the Wet Tropics Amendment Plan 2009 Consultation Draft and associated draft zoning maps.

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Agenda Item 3.3 UNESCO Periodic Report

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the final UNESCO Periodic report is due in July 2011;
- the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) is required by DEWHA by 1 February 2011;
- advised DEWHA is seeking the Authority's and SAC comments on the draft SOUV
- advised that following receipt of SAC comments, the draft SOUV would be made available for Board to consider at their November 2010 meeting; and
- advised of the Authority's intention to complete Part 2 of the UNESCO Periodic Report questionnaire in collaboration with QPWS.

The Board noted the above and asked the Authority to provide advice at the November Board meeting on how the Authority's advisory committees will be given an opportunity for providing feedback with respect to the top 6 'factors affecting the property' and top 6 'management issues' which result from completing the questionnaire process.

The Board also noted the views expressed by RAAC with respect to the Periodic Report questionnaire and supported such views be expressed in the 'other comments' section of the questionnaire.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the requirement for the Authority to prepare a UNESCO Section II Periodic Report on the state of conservation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA); and
- noted that the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) will be preparing a 'Statement of Outstanding Universal Value' (OUV) for the WTWHA as a key part of the Report.

Agenda Item 3.4 Research Strategy

Max Chappell addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- a total of 15 submissions were received on the Draft Research Strategy with most comments being very positive; and
- the Post Consultation Draft has been amended to include a number of suggestions received in the submissions.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine Chair	Dated:

The Board discussed the key performance indicators (KPIs) in Section 9 of the document. The Board agreed there needed to be a stronger link between the stated 'objectives' of the Research Strategy and the KPIs i.e. to indicate whether the objectives of the Strategy are being met (outcomes) through implementation of the proposed actions.

The Chair requested the KPIs be updated to address the above matters. It was agreed the revised KPIs then be sent to the Board OOS providing one week to comment. It was also agreed the Executive Director in consultation with the Chair would decide on the final KPIs for inclusion in the Research Strategy.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the Research Strategy Post Consultation Draft; and
- subject to the revision of the KPI in Section 9, approved the contents of the Draft as the text for preparation of the final Wet Tropics World Heritage Research Strategy 2010-2014; and
- noted that an Implementation Plan for the Research Strategy will be prepared as part of the Authority's 2010/11 annual work plan.

Agenda Item 4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation relating to 'conservation and rehabilitation' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Elaine Harding addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- that CAFNEC has concerns regarding the proposed Ella Bay development as referred to in the joint CAFNEC/EDO letter to the WTMA Board; and
- an outline of a scoping paper on Conservation Priorities for the Wet Tropics has been prepared and circulated to CSLG for comment. It is envisaged the proposed discussion paper could inform consideration of the role of the CSLG in relation to WTMA's responsibilities for conservation, and also perhaps assist with the review of the Conservation Strategy (scheduled 2011/12).

Associate Professor Peter Valentine	Dated:

Max Chappell updated the Board regarding the current environmental assessment status of the Ella Bay development proposal. It was noted that the Commonwealth was still awaiting a response from the proponents regarding requests made in 2008 for further assessment reports.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the CSLG minutes for the 26 July 2010 (Attachment 4.2(1)); and
- noted CSLG concerns on the Ella Bay development proposal.

Agenda Item 5.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- provided an update on the status of the National Landscapes bid; and
- WTMA and QPWS staff would be meeting in the near future to develop a work program that seeks to coordinate support for visitor information centres.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation report relating to 'presentation' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Agenda Item 5.2 Tourism Industry Liaison Group

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and made the following comments:

• there has been a hiatus in TILG in the recent past due to staff investment in time to develop the National Landscapes but meetings will resume as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the plans for the next TILG meeting.

Agenda Item 6.1 Situation and Issues Report – 'Role in the Life of the Community'

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and provided the following additional comments:

• planning for the 12th Annual Cassowary Awards were well underway. The event would be held at the Wildlife Habit Port Douglas on 6th November from 3pm to 7pm. The budget for this year was smaller than previous years due to budgetary constraints.

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Alastair Birtles requested that the proceedings of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Wet Tropics Cultural and Natural Resource Management Summit held on the 5-6 July be forwarded to WTMA Board members.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the situation and issues report relating to 'role in the life of the community' issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Agenda Item 6.2 Review of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Nigel Hedgcock addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the Authority and the Rainforest Aboriginal People are all in agreement that they are unsatisfied with the current RAAC structure and that other options were being investigated including a smaller skills based committee;
- A Rainforest Aboriginal Focus/Leadership Group has been meeting over the past 18 months to progress ideas to create an independent, regional Aboriginal voice to address cultural and natural resource management issues across the wet tropics. Current members included Joann Schmider (Central Wet Tropics Institute), Phil Rist (Girringun) and Jabalbina. This leadership group would also seek partnerships with relevant State, Commonwealth agencies and Land Councils; and
- The group has not yet developed a business plan and has committed to undertaking
 further consultation and communication with the groups on the ground and to get a
 regional mandate.

Troy Wyles Whelan addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- he was concerned that coordinated communication between WTMA, DERM and representative Traditional Owners has been limited to date on this issue;
- reiterated Girringun support for the WTMA RAAC;
- as the Chair of RAAC and a Girringun Board Director, that he was supportive of the RAPA concept, but was concerned that transitional process should be maintained as WTMA continues to work with all Traditional Owners.

Allison Halliday recommended that the Authority needed to continue investment in a revised and reinvigorated RAAC to see through this concept as additional conversations with Terrain and other stakeholders were necessary.

The Chair reiterated the WTMA Board support for the RAAC and requested the issues, options and costs in the agenda paper is developed further so that they are able to make informed decisions on the matter.

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RESOLUTION:

The Board endorsed the Authority to:

- partner with Terrain to help establishment of an enhanced RAPA forum as a means to engaging and involving Rainforest Aboriginal people in decision making of WTMA and Terrain (and potentially other Wet Tropics C&NRM agencies and NGOs); and
- promote coordinated Government agency and NGO support to establish and sustain the governance and operation of this forum.

Agenda Item 6.3 Community Engagement Strategy

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and made the following comments:

- the WTMA draft community engagement strategy (CES) is based on four guiding principles of informing, collaborating, advocating and building capacity within the community;
- the CES connects the work program and activities to the WTMA Strategic Plan 2008-2013; and
- the draft strategy is not necessarily about inventing new activities and projects but
 also includes presenting them in a strategic way that enhances the outcomes of other
 WTMA plans, policies and programs. It is also about strengthening partnerships
 with other organisations including our advisory groups.

Board members were pleased to see the first draft of the CES. They commended Neville Reis and Paul Chantrill on the progress to date. They were mindful that implementation of all of the suggested activities and projects listed in strategy would be resource intensive for the Authority.

Elaine Harding recommended that for the purposes of this strategy that the definition of collaboration should also include listening.

The Board recommended the inclusion of a stakeholder analysis that looks at the groups that are out there, to ensure their aspirations and needs are recognised.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted:

- progress with the draft Community Engagement Strategy;
 and
- endorsed the draft strategy as a basis for further development.

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Agenda Item 6.4 Jirrbal Protected Area Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)

Nigel Hedgcock addressed the Board.

The Board were pleased that the Jirrbal Protected Area ILUA had been finalised and noted that it was the second ILUA that the Authority was involved with (currently five ILUAs have been negotiated in the Wet Tropics).

Allison Halliday commented that ILUA outcomes were inconsistent across the Wet Tropic bioregion as there were no established benchmarks for Traditional Owners in exercising their native title rights regarding access, use and management of the Area.

The Board requested the Authority work with QPWS/DERM to develop a discussion paper on Native Title rights that sought to highlight current issues associated with various native title land use agreements.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the proposed Jirrbal ILUA has been endorsed by the Chair and the Executive Director, and will be executed by the Executive Director upon request by Crown Law.

Agenda Item 7.1 Annual Budget and Work plan

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board about the work plan and budget and recommended that the budget paper should be read in conjunction with the supplementary budget paper which summarizes the more recent 2010/11 budget situation. The more recent budget analysis has required some modification to deliverables in the proposed work plan presented at 7.1(3).

The Board were pleased with the performance indicators and implementation report for the WTMA 2009/10 work plan and remain concerned by the lack of funds to deliver all of the work plan tasks and activities.

RESOLUTION:

The Board:

- noted the budget and work plan reports (attachment 7.2(1) and (2));
- approved the 2010/11 WTMA workplan (attachment 7.1(3));
- approved the 2010/11 WTMA budget (to be provided); and
- agreed to review the budget at the November 2010 Board meeting.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine Chair Dated:	Wet Tropics Management Authority	Board Meeting No. 82: 9 & 10 August 2010
		Dated:

Agenda Item 7.2 WTMA Business Plan 2010-2013

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and made the following comments on the three year business plan:

- the completion of the business plan by September 2010 is a milestone for the Commonwealth payment from the Caring for Our Country program; and
- the 3-year plan specifies priority outputs linked to the goals expressed in the WTMA Strategic Plan.

The Chair requested that the Authority provide an annual report on the implementation of the 3-year work plan.

RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the WTMA Business Plan for 2010-2013.

Agenda Item 7.3 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board on the final report for the WTMA/QPWS 2009/10 work plan.

RESOLUTION:

The Board noted the final report on the QPWS partnership agreement.

Agenda Item 7.4 Board Meeting Procedures

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board on future meeting procedures. Julia Leu asked if the approved minutes were available on the WTMA website. Andrew Maclean advised that due to staff limitations this had not happened but with recent changes to FOI legislation that it would be required in future.

RESOLUTION:

The Board approved the revised Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Meeting Procedures (Attachment 7.4(1)).

Associate Professor Peter Valentine		
Chair	Dated:	
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Agenda Item 7.5 Presentation from Dr. Russell Reichelt, Chair and Chief executive GBRMPA.

Dr. Reichelt was invited to address the Board and presented the GBRMPA Outlook Report.

Dr. Reichelt, the WTMA Chair and Board agreed that both organisations should seek opportunities for collaboration on issues that affected both WHAs including climate change, coastal and infrastructure development, education and recreation and visitation.

Agenda Item 7.6 Presentation from Senator the Hon. Jan McLucas, Senator for Oueensland

Senator Jan McLucas addressed the Board, advising of her continuing support for the work of the Authority.

Agenda 7.7 WTMA Board Meeting November

The Board discussed the November Board meeting and suggested a visit to Mossman Gorge and Rex Range on the Sunday 7 November.

Agenda item 7.7 Other business

The Board was reminded that there would be an OOS session teleconference 5 October 2010 to discuss cassowary award nominations.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm

Associate Professor Peter Valentine	
Chair	Dated: