

Minutes
WTMA Board Meeting
No. 87: 31 October 2011

Directors:	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine Dr Alastair Birtles Cr Julia Leu Mr Andrew Maclean	Chair Director Director Executive Director
Departmental Observers	Mr Peter Ogilvie Mr Wolf Sievers	QPWS/DERM QPWS/DERM
Guests	Mr Ernie Grant Ms Leah Talbot	Board Observer Board Observer
Committee Chair	Ms Moni Carlisle	Chair CCC
WTMA staff	Ms Ellen Weber Mr Max Chappell Dr Paul Chantrill Mr Nigel Hedgcock Ms Patricia O’Loghlen	Secretariat Manager, Planning and Conservation Manager, Communities and Partnerships Communities and Partnerships Communities and Partnerships

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chairperson’s Welcome and Introduction (9.07am to 9.10am)

The Chair opened the meeting at 9am and welcomed Directors Dr Alastair Birtles and Cr Julia Leu.

The Chair welcomed Peter Ogilvie and Wolf Sievers to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Dr Ernie Grant and Ms Leah Talbot who were invited to participate at the meeting as Board observers.

1.2 Apologies (9.10am to 9.12am)

Apologies were received from Mr Jeff Gillies (TQ), Dr Ro Hill (Board Observer), Helen Cox (DRET), Jane Ambrose and Mr Ian Mason (SEWPAC) and Prof Steve Williams (SAC Chair).

Louise Rose (DRET) was unable to attend due to unexpected flight cancellations.

1.3 Previous Minutes Meeting No. 86: 8&9 August 2011. (9.12am to 9.14am)

Resolution

The Board confirmed the Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 86.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

1.4 Actions Arising (9.14am to 9.20am)

The Chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting. The Board noted:

- that they were keen to see the Authority launch the vegetation mapping project in the near future, and
- that the RAPA has been developing its Terms of Reference and a 12 month business plan, with the intention that these are endorsed at their next RAPA meeting in early November.

Resolution

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

REPORTS

2.1 Chair's Report (11.25 to 11.40am)

The Chair gave a verbal report to the Board and advised that at the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council meeting on 12 August 2011 he had an opportunity to speak with Queensland Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business, Jan Jarrett MP, who was supportive of having the A/Director General for Tourism attend future Board meetings as the Queensland tourism representative.

Resolution

The Board

- *noted the Chair's report, and*
- *requested the Chair write a letter to the Queensland Minister for Tourism requesting that she nominate a senior DEEDI tourism division officer to attend future Board meetings.*

2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports (12.30pm to 12.40pm, 1.30pm to 1.55pm)

The Chair invited Board Directors to provide comments or advice.

Alastair Birtles

- thanked the Authority and QPWS officers for hosting his JCU *Managing tourism in Protected Area* students while on their recent study tour of the Wet Tropics,
- was pleased to host the ED on his visit to Townsville to meet with JCU researcher, Dr Ian Atkinson from the Tropical Data Hub, and
- advised the Board that he continued to represent the Authority on AWHAC and that the newly elected Chair (from the Blue Mountains WHA) was keen to reinvigorate the committee.

Julia Leu

- advised that the CRC have endorsed their Strategic Directions Paper <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/building-planning-and-infrastructure/planning-schemes/cairns-region-planning-scheme/stage-1>, which is the first step to producing a new planning scheme for the entire Cairns region, and

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- advised that she been elected to be on the Douglas Advisory panel, which has been established by the Department of Local Government and Planning to advise local government about whether or not a planning proposal is inconsistent with protecting the places iconic values.

Leah Talbot

- advised the Board that representatives from ACF, QPWS and RAPA met with CSIRO researcher, Dr. Ro Hill to discuss her research program which includes investigating collaborative environmental governance and conservation and management of Indigenous biocultural landscapes in the Wet Tropics.

The Chair invited Departmental Observers to provide comments or advice.

Peter Ogilvie

- Provided a verbal update and report on a number of Queensland World Heritage Properties (refer to **Attachment 2.2 (1)**).

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the Directors' and Observers' reports, and*
- *thanked Peter Ogilvie for his dedication to protecting National Parks in QLD; his leadership in the establishment and management of a number of Queensland WHA including the WTQWHA and his work in advocating for World Heritage.*

2.3 Executive Director's report (11.40pm to 12.15pm)

The Authority's Executive Director, Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and provided the following updates:

- WTMA was finalising their submission on the QPWS Master Plan and invited Board Directors to provide comment by 11 November 2011,
- that in mid November he would be travelling to Sydney for the ACIUCN AGM, to Canberra to meet SEWPAC officers to discuss NERP and NHL listing for the WTQWHA and then to Mt Buller for a National Landscapes workshop,
- that with support from SAC members Dr Lea Scherl and Prof Jeff Sayer, had submitted a proposal for a World Heritage forum at the IUCN World Conservation Congress which is being held 6-15 September 2012 in Jeju, South Korea, and
- that the cabinet submission for approval of the Wet Tropics Amendment Plan was at the final lodgement stage.

Resolution:

The Board:

- *noted the Executive Director's report, and*
- *requested the Authority prepare a Board paper for the March 2012 meeting on the implications of the proposed Australian (EPBC) national environmental law reforms.*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

2.4 QPWS Wet Tropics Quarterly Activity Update (3.45pm to 4.03pm)

Wolf Seivers presented the Wet Tropics QPWS Activity Report (July to September 2011) to the Board and advised that:

- the Eastern Kuku Yalanji handover ceremony had to be postponed to due inclement weather, and
- The Mandingalbay Yidinji (MY) people and their partners, which included WTMA and QPWS, were celebrating the dedication of the MY Indigenous Protected Area on the 26 November 2011.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the QPWS Wet Tropics Regional Manager's report, and*
- *requested the Regional Manager forward the Board's appreciation to Wet Tropics QPWS staff for their continued efforts in cyclone recovery efforts, post Cyclone Yasi.*

2.5 Community Consultative Committee (1.55pm to 2.25pm)

The Chair of the CCC, Moni Carlisle provided a report to the Board. The CCC Chair:

- thanked Deputy Chair, Bryony Barnet for chairing the CCC meeting in her absence,
- advised that a number of members were unable to attend the meeting, and sent proxies from their organisation to attend, rather than from their representative/sectoral group,
- advised that she continued to work with members to continue their journey to becoming a active, participatory committee that were networked with their communities of interest,
- noted that CCC engagement and the Board would be addressed at Agenda Item 7.2, and
- was pleased to advise that the *World Heritage Wet Tropics - Restoring Communities* educational DVD had been released <http://www.sarahscragg.com/video/education/>

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted that the CCC met on the 7 October 2011, and*
- *noted that the CCC agenda should be developed by the CCC Chair and committee with input by WTMA staff, and encouraged CCC members to develop their own agendas.*

2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee (4.10pm to 4.25pm)

Steve Goosem addressed the Board.

The Board was pleased that the SAC had developed a climate change adaptation strategy and were keen for the Authority to consider organising a workshop with key partners (from SEWPAC, QPWS and DERM Office for Climate Change) to progress the draft discussion paper into a project proposal for 2012-13.

Resolution

The Board noted that the SAC met on 7 October 2011.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

2.7 WTMA Board meeting dates 2012 (11am to 11.10am)

Ellen Weber addressed the meeting.

Resolution

The Board agreed on the proposed dates and locations for the meetings to be held in 2012, as amended.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

3.1 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement for 2011-12 (4.03pm to 4.10pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and advised that a mid-year progress report would be provided to the Board at the March 2012 meeting.

Wolf Sievers extended a standing invitation to all Board Directors to attend the quarterly QPWS Regional Management Forums.

Resolution

The Board noted the priorities deliverables at Attachment 3.1(I) as a basis for the 2011-12 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement.

3.2 2011- 12 budget and workplan quarterly report (3.30pm to 3.45pm)

Andrew Maclean updated the Board on the 2011-12 September quarter work plan and budget report and advised that a mid-year progress report would be provided to the Board at the March 2012 meeting.

Resolution

The Board noted the 2010-2011 work plan and budget.

3.3 2012-13 WTMA Planning Context and Directions (2.25pm to 3.30pm)

Andrew Maclean gave a presentation to the Board on WTMA planning directions post 2012, including the broad (National and State) policy context, the Authority's resources and capabilities, opportunities and challenges.

The Board noted:

- new projects themes for 2012 and beyond could be based Australia's international duty to protect, preserve, present, rehabilitate and transmit the values of the Area to future generations;
- the current 'big rock' project for joint management of the WHA should be reviewed to include the policy implications of NHL listing of the Area for WH values,
- that while climate change remains a large policy issue nationally, the Authority resources are best invested into a regional response to climate change that links to biosecurity and building landscape resilience,
- the learning landscapes project could be developed further as it has the potential to attract national and international investment,
- it was timely to review the 2008-13 Strategic plan before the end of the 2011- 2012 financial year, and

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- that the Authority should continue to find major partners and investors and to turn good ideas into action and projects.

The Board requested that the Authority organise a workshop in early 2012 to continue the discussion with key staff, Committee Chairs and partner organisations.

Resolution

The Board requested that the 2012/13 workplan be further developed taking its comments into account and that the Authority organise a planning workshop for early 2012.

WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION

4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Protection (4.25 to 4.35pm)

Bruce Jennison briefed the Board on the Cardwell Gap road upgrade, and advised that DTMR invited the Authority to provide comment and participate in the planning stages of the project.

Wolf Sievers advised the Board that QPWS were currently reviewing the construction of a large firebreak at Bilyana within the Girramay NP in the WHA following complaints by the adjacent landholder and that he would be pleased to report back on the outcomes of the investigation on at the next Board meeting.

Resolution

The Board noted the situation report relating to ‘protection’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

5.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation (4.35pm to 4.55pm)

Andrew Maclean advised the Board that the Queensland Government amended the *Plant Protection Act 1989* on 14 October 2011 to repeal Queensland as a pest quarantine area for Myrtle Rust and to repeal its status as a notifiable pest. He advised that the Queensland Office for Regulatory Efficiency was consulted regarding the need for a Regulatory Impact Statement. The result of the consultation was that a Regulatory Impact Statement was not required for this subordinate legislation because the proposed amendments ‘would not impose significant impacts on the business or the community’.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the situation report relating to ‘conservation and rehabilitation’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area,*
- *requested the Authority develop a response to the recent decision to amend the Plant Protection Act 1989 to repeal Queensland as a pest quarantine area for myrtle rust and as well as repeal its status as a notifiable pest, and*

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- *noted that the Queensland Government, including the Office for Regulatory Efficiency did not appear to consider the environmental consequences or impacts of their decision.*

5.2 Conservation Sector Liaison Group (CSLG) Report

Max Chappell tabled the draft minutes from the CSLG meeting,

Resolution

The Board noted the CSLG minutes.

6.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation (4.55pm to 4.58pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting and advised that high quality bids had been received to undertake the prefeasibility study for the establishment of a National World Heritage Gateway for Cairns.

Paul Chantrill advised that the AEC Group reports for the Experience Development Strategy Pilot (EDS) for the Cairns-Townsville Tourism Hub had been completed and that he would forward these to the Board for their information.

Resolution

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

ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

7.1 Situation and Issues Report – Role in the Life of the Community (4.58pm to 5.05pm)

Paul Chantrill addressed the meeting.

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.

7.2 Maximising the value of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) (10am to 10.40am)

Andrew Maclean presented the paper **Attachment 3.1(1)** 'Needs and expectations among CCC relationships' to the Board.

The CCC Chair advised the Board

- that she continues to work with individual CCC members to harness their energy and direct them towards becoming a more participatory, networked committees of interest and was positive that the CCC were supportive of the approach outlined in the paper,

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

- there was a risk that one or two members would like the CCC agenda to reflect the Board agenda, and saw their primary role was to review and comment on Board papers, and
- it was important for CCC members to communicate outside of the quarterly meetings and that members were keen to have a communication portal established by the Authority to facilitate this dialogue.

Resolution

The Board:

- *endorsed the relationships between itself, CCC and the ED proposed at Attachment 7.2(1), in relation to the operations of the CCC and community engagement processes,*
- *noted the implications outlined in this paper, and*
- *encouraged the Authority to consider other implications.*

7.3 National Heritage Listing of the Wet Tropics for its Indigenous Values (9.20am to 10am)

Board Directors discussed a number of issues surrounding the obligations, opportunities, expectations of Rainforest Aboriginal people, WTMA and DERM created by announcement of the National Heritage Listing of the Wet Tropics WHA for its Indigenous values and agreed that was important that Rainforest Aboriginal People have the opportunity to have a leadership role in participating in opportunities that arise from the new listing.

Board Directors agreed that it was important for the Authority to collaborate with Wet Tropics Rainforest Aboriginal People, QPWS and others to develop an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management strategy. WTMA could contribute in-kind staff resources to a jointly managed project but would not be in a position to invest significant funds into Aboriginal partner organisations.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the obligations, opportunities and expectations relating to the possible announcement of the National Heritage listing of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for its Indigenous values, and*
- *endorsed the list of 'Summary actions for WTMA' as a basis for WTMA's response to the listing and requested the Authority develop the actions into a project for the 2012-13 work plan.*

Meeting closed at 5.10pm

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated:

Queensland World Heritage Properties Report
WTMA Board meeting – 31 October 2011
Peter Ogilvie (QPWS/DERM)

Fraser Island WHA

- QPWS is proceeding with preparation of a draft nomination for extending the existing WH property to include, *inter alia*, Cooloola
- The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) were asked to provide advice on whether the re-nomination should also be for *Criterion (x)*. The SAC decided not to proceed with a new criterion as it would have been difficult to justify
- Advice from Heritage North (SEWPaC) is that the proposed nomination is a low priority with them. Their five high priority items at present are Kimberley, Burrup Peninsula, Kokoda Track, Cape York Peninsula and Great Barrier Reef
- Advice received from the Commonwealth that the AWHIN meeting, which Queensland had agreed to host on Fraser Island this year, could not proceed at the moment and would be considered again some time next year
- The three advisory committees have all met over the last month, and

Riversleigh section of AFMS

- Advisory Committee met two weeks ago, and
- Interpretive signage and walking track to be upgraded in line with planning document and CfoC funding which will include upgrading the entrance area to D Site.

Gondwana Rainforests

- New advisory committees have not yet met as final appointment procedures, which require sign-off by Ministers from Qld, NSW and Commonwealth, have not yet been completed. Similar to arrangements for new WTMA Board appointments, this is a very time-consuming process, and
- The Gondwana Rainforests Coordinating Committee met in Brisbane recently.

Great Barrier Reef

- Commonwealth and State arrangements are being developed in order to prepare the strategic assessment required by the World Heritage Committee. The initial report by Australia is required by 1 February 2012. It was hoped that the monitoring mission would visit Australia before that. However, we now know that it will not take place until early March 2012.

AWHAC and AWHIN

- Arrangements for the new Ministerial Council on Environment and Water have left a number of unanswered questions for AWHAC and AWHIN. These were to be discussed at a teleconference on the day of the Board meeting. However, I was unable to connect. Subsequent advice established that a paper was to be prepared for the new standing committee in order to elicit a clear response on these matters, and
- DERM are awaiting advice on 2011-12 CfoC bids.

Associate Professor Peter Valentine
Chair

Dated: