

**Minutes**  
**WTMA Board Meeting**  
**No. 89: 21-22 May 2012**

<b>Directors:</b>	Assoc. Professor Peter Valentine	Chair
	Dr Alastair Birtles	Director
	Dr Ro Hill	Director
	Ms Leah Talbot	Director
	Mr Andrew Maclean	Executive Director
<b>Departmental</b>	Mr Ian Mason	SEWPAC
<b>Observers</b>	Ms Helen Cox	DRET
	Mr Andrew Millerd	DNPRSPR
	Ms June Powell	Regional Services, Queensland Government (Tuesday only)
<b>WTMA staff</b>	Mr Max Chappell	Manager, Planning and Conservation
	Dr Paul Chantrill	Manager, Communities and Partnerships
	Ms Ellen Weber	Board Secretariat

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction (Monday 10.35am to 10.40am)**

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 10.35am and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the area, the Nywaigi and the Warrgamay people.

The Chair welcomed Directors Dr Alastair Birtles, Dr Ro Hill and Ms Leah Talbot to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed the Commonwealth representatives to the meeting Mr Ian Mason (DSEWPAC) and Helen Cox (DRET).

The Chair welcomed Andrew Millerd, A/Regional Manager Wet Tropic Region from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing (DNPRSR) to the meeting.

The Chair advised that a representative from Queensland Government Regional Services would attend the meeting on behalf of Paul Martyn.

The Chair, Government representatives and observers to the WTMA reception from 5.00pm at Serenita@Tyto to meet with members of the local community, and hear about the Authority's current planning programs, community engagement projects and research priorities for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

### **1.2 Apologies (Monday 9.35am to 9.38am)**

Cnr Julia Leu was unable to attend due to (unplanned) commitments with the Cairns Regional Council.

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Jane Ambrose was unable to attend due to conflicting commitments in Canberra.

Ross MacLeod (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) was unable to attend due to current Queensland government restrictions on non-essential travel.

Paul Martyn (D/Director General, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) was unable to attend due to critical deadlines in preparing for the DestinationQ conference in Cairns and the Tourism Cabinet Committee. He requested June Powell represent the department's interests in his absence.

Bryony Barnett, Deputy Chair CCC (Acting CCC Chair) was unable to attend the meeting, and prepared an A/Chair report to the Board which to be tabled at agenda item 2.5.

Prof Steve Williams, Chair SAC was unable to attend due to existing field trip commitments in Western Australia.

Dr Ernie Grant was invited to participate at the meeting as an observer but was unable to attend.

### **1.3 Previous Minutes (Monday 10.44am to 10.50am)**

#### **Resolution**

*The Board confirmed the Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 88 as amended.*

### **1.4 Actions Arising (Monday 10.50am to 11.15am)**

The Chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting, as updated.

**88/1.4 Wet Tropics Activity Update.** The Board were pleased that Buzz Symonds was invited to attend the next Board meeting to discuss joint management issues as they relate to the Cape York experience

**87/7.3 NHL listing.** The Board agreed it was important for WTMA to actively support Rainforest Aboriginal People to develop programs to implement NHL outcomes when the Area is listed for its cultural values.

#### **Resolution**

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

## **2.0 REPORTS**

### **2.1 Chair's Report (Monday 11.15am to 11. 25am)**

The Chair gave a verbal report to the Board on a number of issues including that:

- he remained very concerned about the risks and consequences of the escalating prevalence of invasive pests and diseases in the region (most recently yellow crazy ant and Myrtle

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Rust) and thinks that it is time for the Board to advise both the State and Commonwealth governments of the Board's concerns, particularly the government's commitment to protecting the OUV of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. This item is discussed further at agenda item 4.1

- he was pleased to meet with WTMA staff to progress the development of a refreshed WTMA logo
- he visited the MaMu canopy walkway with his JCU students and commended QPWS staff on the very high standards of presentation and post-TC Yasi rehabilitation efforts
- he is concerned that mining is not banned in Nature Refuges in Queensland, citing the plans for a coal mine over 52% of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge near Alpha in central Queensland as an example, and
- he advised that Tony Burke, MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water Populations and Communities is establishing an Iconic Sites Task Force.

### **Resolution**

*The Board noted the Chair's report.*

## **2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports (Monday 11. 25am to 11.50am)**

The Chair invited Board Directors and departmental representatives to provide comments or advice.

### ***Alastair Birtles***

- that he was pleased to participate and chair a session at the WTMA sponsored Indigenous Climate Change Mitigation in Cairns on the 28 March 2012
- that he was pleased to meet with WTMA staff to progress the development of a refreshed WTMA logo, and
- that he was pleased to finally receive advice regarding plans for an AWHAC teleconference on the 1 June 2012 - the first such meeting in over 12 months.

### ***Ro Hill***

- that she attended the AIATSIS-hosted joint management meeting of all Australian government Protected Area agencies except Townsville in April. All States and Territories now have formal legislative provisions for joint management with Indigenous peoples. Participants were keen to establish a (network) SharePointSite to exchange information and management tools between jurisdictions
- that she was pleased to meet with WTMA staff to progress the development of a refreshed WTMA logo
- that she recently attended a biodiversity theme workshop for CSIRO. The meeting highlighted the importance of recently-established Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which will have a role analogous to the

IPCC. Global assessments of biodiversity for IPBES will also take account of Indigenous and local knowledge, and

- that she has undertaken a literature review of the status of indigenous land management in Australia, which has highlighted the growth of this sector.

***Leah Talbot***

- that she represented the WTMA Board at the Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Community Development Plan handovers and celebrations on the weekend of the 18-19 May. The formal handover of the State Land Deeds occurred on the Saturday morning as the first of the three handover ceremonies and was held in the large Community Hall in Wujal Wujal. It was a very emotional event for many of the Traditional Owners. After brief refreshments, the ceremonies then continued but were conducted at a number of locations on EKY country, including Travathen, Mungumby and Woobadda. Saturday night combined the celebrations for all the EKY People at the Community Hall in Rossville, where she gave a brief speech and acknowledgement to the overall events and congratulated all the EKY People on behalf of the WTMA Board and Staff.

***Ian Mason***

- that he advised that in the 2012 Federal budget, \$2.2Billion has been allocated to continue the CFOC program. World Heritage remains an important priority
- that he advised of the recent COAG decision to streamline 'green tape' for state and federal approval for major projects, and
- that he advised that recommendations for the latest round of 2012-13 CFOC Open Grant proposals have been submitted to the Minister for consideration.

***Helen Cox***

- that she advised RET is reducing its total staff by about 100 (about 20%). Tourism Division currently has 81 staff and will reduce to 70. Some functions will be cut or reduced.

**Resolution**

*The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.*

**2.3 Executive Director's report (Monday 11.50am to 12.15pm)**

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

- WTMA's proposal for NERP funding to support our rainforest related research communications program was not successful. Feedback from the NERP Steering Committee meeting included the need for the Authority to forge stronger partnerships to capture NERP investment into RRRC. The Cairns Institute (in partnership with RAPA) was successful in receiving funding support for \$90K over three years

- the Australian Government has released the Australian Heritage Strategy public consultation paper <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/strategy/submissions.html> in support of a new strategy for the identification, management and celebration of Australia's heritage. The Authority will make a submission
- the next World Park's congress will not be held in Queensland, and
- the Authority's \$10M Biodiversity Fund proposal "Making Connections" which sought to coordinate strategic restoration work in the Wet Tropics was not supported. However, the equivalent amount of funds was invested in the Wet Tropics through a number of smaller proposals, some of which were components of the Authority's bid.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board noted the Executive Director's report.*

#### **2.4 QPWS Wet Tropics Quarterly Activity Update (Monday 12.15pm to 12.35pm)**

A/Regional Manager Andrew Millerd presented the Wet Tropics QPWS Activity Report (Jan to March 2012) to the Board and also advised:

- QPWS now sits within the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing. The former Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has split into a number of departments. World Heritage, threatened species (including cassowary management) and Nature Refuges now sit within the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- QPWS Wet Tropics staff, Terrain and interested stakeholders attended community meetings at the Giringun office in Cardwell to discuss education projects on mahogany gliders, and
- the Department are very concerned by recent discoveries of Yellow Crazy Ant and Myrtle Rust to the Wet Tropics. Discussions are underway to develop monitoring and public awareness actions.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board noted the QPWS Wet Tropics Regional Manager's report.*

#### **2.5 Community Consultative Committee (Monday 12.35pm to 12.55pm)**

Paul Chantrill presented the CCC report on behalf of Bryony Barnet A/Chair CCC and tabled an additional report to the Board from the A/Chair (provided at **Attachment 2.5 (2)**).

The Board requested that nominations for a new CCC Chair are progressed before the August 2012 meeting to maintain momentum within the committee.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board:*

- *noted the CCC minutes for 20 April 2012, and*

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- *noted CCC support for the proposed logo and website design.*

## **2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee (Monday 1.20pm to 1.35pm)**

The draft minutes of the SAC meeting of May 10 2012 were tabled at the meeting. Refer to **Attachment 2.6 (2)**.

Max Chappell presented the report on behalf of the SAC Chair.

The Board requested that the Terms of Reference for the Wet Tropics corridor strategy consider multi-scalar corridors, recognise the WTWHA as a part of a continental corridor and to incorporate the concept of community (engagement in) connectivity initiatives.

### **Resolution**

*The Board noted that the SAC met on 10 May 2012.*

## **3.0 WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION**

### **3.1 Situation and Issues Report – Protection (Monday 2.00pm to 2.45pm)**

Max Chappell provided an update on the status of the Wet Tropics Amendment Plan.

### **Resolution**

*The Board:*

- *noted the situation report relating to ‘protection’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and*
- *requested the Authority progress timely implementation of the Wet Tropics Amendment Plan.*

## **4.0 WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION**

### **4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation (Monday 2.45pm to 3.45pm)**

Max Chappell briefed the Board on recent biosecurity issues including yellow Crazy Ant and Myrtle Rust.

Max Chappell tabled two documents including a Chronology for Myrtle Rust incursions in Australia (**Attachment 4.1 (1)**) and a paper on Myrtle Rust arrival in Australia - Major threat to native biodiversity and World Heritage (**Attachment 4.1 (2)**).

The Board reiterated their grave concern regarding the risks and consequences of the escalating prevalence of invasive pests and diseases in the region and their impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Area.

### **Resolution**

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Associate Professor Peter Valentine  
Chair, Wet Tropics Management Authority

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*The Board:*

- *noted the situation report relating to ‘conservation and rehabilitation’ issues associated with the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area,*
- *encouraged the Authority (continue) to collaborate with Biosecurity Queensland on emerging biosecurity issues, and*
- *agreed that the Authority, through the Chair, prepare advice to the responsible Minister(s) and a public statement on the systematic failure to deal with biosecurity risks to the integrity of the World Heritage Area.*

#### **4.2 Learning Landscapes Roadmap (Monday 4.00pm to 4.20pm)**

Max Chappell updated the Board on the Learning Landscape roadmap. The road map will promote appropriate research into World Heritage, conservation land management, environmental, cultural, social and economic issues across the Wet Tropics bioregion. It also has a broader agenda including:

- seeking opportunities for co-research and learning on world heritage related projects
- international collaboration and exchange that involve the research institutions and communities
- disseminating research findings to (targeted) key stakeholders (for example, tourism and education agencies), and
- facilitating knowledge brokering and communication.

**Resolution**

*The Board:*

- *noted the draft Wet Tropics Learning Landscape Roadmap, and*
- *noted the proposed actions for implementation under the WTMA 2012-13 Works Program.*

#### **4.3 Conservation Sector Liaison Group**

The Board noted this item.

**Resolution**

*That the Board notes the minutes of recent Conservation Sector Liaison Group meetings.*

#### **5.0 WORLD HERITAGE PRESENTATION**

##### **5.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation (Monday 4.50pm to 5.00pm)**

Chantrill addressed the meeting and provided updates on relevant issues.

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Associate Professor Peter Valentine  
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## **Resolution**

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

## **5.2 Branding and Communication (Monday 4.20pm to 4.30pm)**

Paul Chantrill addressed the Board and provided an overview of the logo and rebranding.

### **Resolution**

#### *The Board*

- *endorsed the use of redesigned WTMA logo depicting a Cassowary situated on left of 'Wet Tropics' as provided at Attachment 5.2 (1), and*
- *noted that a style manual will be developed for the redesigned logo.*

## **6.0 ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **6.1 Situation and Issues Report – Role in the Life of the Community**

The Board noted this item.

### **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.*

### **6.2 Cassowary Awards 2012 (Monday 4.30pm to 4.45pm)**

Paul Chantrill addressed the meeting and provided an update on progress.

### **Resolution**

*The Board noted that the Cassowary Awards will be held at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal on 3 November 2012.*

### **6.3 Update on Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance**

The Board noted this item.

### **Resolution**

*The Board noted progress with development of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance.*

## **7.0 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

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Chair, Wet Tropics Management Authority

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### **7.1 Budget workplan – March 2012 review (Tuesday 2.10pm to 2.45pm)**

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting.

The Board reinforced the importance of community site visits and urged them to be afforded higher priority in the work program.

#### **Resolution**

##### *The Board:*

- *noted the financial status report current as at 31 April 2012 at Attachment 7.1 (1); and*
- *noted the work plan progress report at Attachment 7.1 (2).*

### **7.2 2012-2013 Workplan (Tuesday 2.45pm to 3.05pm)**

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting and provides updates on the work plan and budget.

The Board agreed that the workplan should provide for a mid year review so that emerging issues may be considered and incorporated into the work plan as required.

#### **Resolution**

##### *The Board:*

- *noted the progress in development of the 2012-13 annual workplan and provides further comment and directions to facilitate its completion,*
- *noted that the final workplan will be presented to the Board at the August 2012 meeting, and*
- *requested a board paper on progress towards the Wet Tropics corridor and connectivity strategy.*

### **7.3 2012-2018 Strategic Plan Review (Tuesday 9.00am to 1.10pm)**

Andrew Maclean led a discussion on the strategic review.

A planning day has been organised for 30 May 2012 for the Board to further consider the policy and planning context, feedback from partners and agree to a set of strategic goals.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board noted the agenda and related processes for the WTMA strategic review.*

### **7.4 New Queensland Government – Issues for WTMA (Tuesday 8.40am to 9.15am)**

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting.

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The Board agreed that it would be useful to provide all new mayors and councillors with tailored briefing packages on the Authority, our key projects and operations.

### **Resolution**

#### *The Board:*

- *noted issues and opportunities emerging from the election of the new Queensland Government and changes in the composition of local government in the Wet Tropics Region, and*
- *noted issues and implications for the Wet Tropics arising from recent environmental policy announcements.*

### **7.5 Board Delegations (Monday 1.40pm to 2.00pm)**

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting and advised that the Authority has now completed a review of the current Register of Delegations.

### **Resolution**

#### *The Board:*

- *Rescinded the Register of current Delegations at Attachment 7.5 (1), and*
- *approved the revised Register of Delegations provided at Attachment 7.5 (2), as amended.*

**Meeting closed at 3.10 pm Tuesday 22 May 2012**

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Associate Professor Peter Valentine  
Chair, Wet Tropics Management Authority

Date: