

Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Meeting

Minutes

No 92: 18-19 February 2013

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| Wet Tropics Board Directors | Assoc. Prof Peter Valentine | Chair |
| | Dr Alastair Birtles | Director |
| | Dr Ro Hill | Director |
| | Ms Leah Talbot | Director |
| | Cr Julia Leu | Director |
| | Mr Andrew Maclean | Executive Director |
| Departmental Observers | Mr James Newman | Regional Director, QPWS Northern Region/DNPRSR |
| | Ms Leslie Shirreffs | Executive Director, Biodiversity Implementation, DEHP |
| | Mr Paul Fagg | Regional Manager, Investment Attraction, DSDIP |
| | Ms Jane Ambrose | Director, Heritage Division North, SEWPaC |
| | Ms Robyn Agnew | A/ Manager, DRET |
| Committee Chairs | Ms Rhonda Sorensen | Chair, Community Consultative Committee |
| Board guests | Mr Alf Joyce | Representing Rainforest Aboriginal interests |
| WTMA staff | Mr Max Chappell | Manager, Planning and Conservation |
| | Dr Paul Chantrill | Manager, Tourism and Partnerships |
| | Mr Nigel Hedgcock | Manager, Indigenous Partnerships |
| | Mr Bruce Jennison | Principal Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation |
| | Mr Bill Carrodus | Senior Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation |
| | Mr Campbell Clarke | Principal Conservation Officer, Planning and Conservation |
| | Dr Steve Goosem | Principal Senior Scientist, Learning Landscapes |
| | Amy Bond | Project Officer, Planning and Conservation |
| | Patricia O'Loghlen | Team Leader, Community Engagement |
| | Ms Ellen Weber | Board Secretariat, Business Management |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction (Monday 9.45am to 9.50am)

The Chair Peter Valentine opened the meeting at 9.45am and acknowledged the Traditional Owners, the Gimuy Yidinji and the Yirriganydji people of the Cairns area.

The Chair also acknowledged the 18 Rainforest Aboriginal Groups of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

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

The Chair welcomed Ms Leslie Shirreffs, Executive Director, Biodiversity Implementation, Ecosystem Outcomes, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr James Newman, Regional Director, QPWS Northern Region, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing (DNPRSR) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul Fagg, Regional Manager-Investment Attraction, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Ms Robyn Agnew, A General Manager, Programs Branch Tourism Division, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Ms Jane Ambrose, Director, Heritage Division North, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Ms Rhonda Sorensen, Chair of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr Alf Joyce to the meeting who was invited to attend to represent indigenous interests.

1.2 Apologies (Monday 9.50am to 9.54am)

Mr Paul Martyn, Deputy Director General, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games was unable to attend the meeting, and requested Paul Fagg attend on his behalf.

Helen Cox, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET) was unable to attend the meeting. DRET was represented by Robyn Agnew.

Scott Buchanan, Director, Ecosystem Outcomes, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection was unable to attend the meeting. DEHP was represented by Leslie Shirreffs.

Professor Steve Williams, Chair Scientific Advisory Committee was unable to attend the meeting.

Sandra Levers, Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance Board Observer was unable to attend the meeting.

1.3 Previous Minutes (Monday 9.55am to 10.05am)

The Board requested the following amendments:

p.5 Agenda Item 2.6. Amend second resolution to read: ‘thanked SAC members for their considered contributions on conservation prioritisation for biodiversity of non-iconic species post tropical cyclone(s)’, and

p. 7 Agenda item 6.2. Amend to read: ‘assist Authority in organising and implementing a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country’.

Resolution

The Board confirmed the Ordinary minutes from Meeting No. 91, as amended.

1.4 Actions Arising (Monday 10.05am to 10.10am)

Andrew Maclean referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting and updated on issues.

79/5.5 *Wet Tropics Vegetation Mapping Project.* The Hon. Minister Burke may be in Cairns on 7 May 2013 to attend the NERP conference and this would be a good opportunity to launch the project.

89/3.1 *Wet Tropics Amendment Plan.* The Executive Director, and Manager Planning and Conservation is seeking a meeting with the Director General EHP in March 2013 to brief him on the proposed key amendments and potential Queensland Government interests or issues associated with such amendments; to discuss options and processes for consulting with key government agencies; and to discuss options for sequencing of formal approvals by Ministerial Council and Queensland Government.

Resolution

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

1.5 Community Consultative Committee Nominations (CCC) IN-CAMERA (Monday 5.05pm to 5.15pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board and advised on current Community Consultative Committee (CCC) vacancies.

Resolution

The Board:

- *endorsed Warren Singleton as the second Rainforest Aboriginal people representative on the Community Consultative Committee, and*
- *endorsed Chris Cameron as a new Community Consultative Committee member representing the 4WD club.*

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Chair's Report (Monday 10.10am to 10.15am)

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

- his three-year appointment as Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority expires on the 26 February 2013, and
- he is editing proceedings from the *40 Years World Heritage Symposium* (9-10 August 2012).

Resolution

The Board noted the Chair's report.

2.2 Directors' issues – verbal reports (Monday 10.15am to 11.30am)

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

Julia Leu

- that the Queensland Government are implementing a series of planning reforms through amendments to the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* which would have significant

implications for the way that local government assess development applications. The single State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) is designed to provide clarity to local government and construction industries,

- the de-amalgamation polls for Douglas will be held on 9 March, 2013, and
- there have been a number of amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009* such as:
 - clarifying that community engagement is not mandatory before making interim local laws
 - repealing the requirement for a long term community plan and financial plan, and
 - requiring that the Mayor and not the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for preparing the budget for presentation to the local government.

Leah Talbot

- attended a Queensland Traditional Owner Network (QTON) meeting on 8 February 2013. The meeting was well represented with representatives from 14 NRM bodies and five World Heritage Properties, and
- advised that she had ceased employment with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and would be taking up a position at CSIRO.

Alastair Birtles

- thanked the Authority for the splendid work at the Cassowary Awards (November 2012)
- is assisting the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network (AWHIN) co-chairs Hank Horton and Allison Halliday to write a paper based on their World Heritage Symposium presentation (9-10 August, Cairns 2012) to include in the final proceedings, and
- is expecting to participate in a number of Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) telephone discussions in the near future.

Ro Hill

- is working in collaboration with the Cairns Institute on a project which seeks to conceptualise, evaluate and report on social resilience in vulnerable regional and remote communities facing climate change in tropical Queensland. The project will collaboratively establish an effective set of regional scale indicators that agencies and NRM bodies can use to monitor and evaluate regional-scale community resilience in the face of climate change.

The Chair invited Departmental Observers to provide comments or advice from their agency programs that are pertinent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Paul Fagg

- The Queensland Premier, Hon Campbell Newman had released the six month action plan which outlines the way forward for delivering on the five pledges made to the people of Queensland <http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/plans-and-progress/plans/6-months-july-dec-12.aspx>. Priority actions of interest to the Authority include:
 - Improve access for tourism and ecotourism operators in national parks and reduce permit classes by 50 per cent
 - Develop a regional tourism strategy consistent with DestinationQ outcomes

- Encourage the promotion of tourism destinations through the development of a Queensland drive tourism strategy, and
 - Finalise the tourism strategy to provide marketing, product development and trade events opportunities.
- the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning were reforming and simplifying the current planning framework through amendment to the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The purpose of the amendments are to streamline assessment and approval processes, remove unnecessary red tape and re-empower local governments to plan for their communities. More information can be found at <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/about-planning/planning-reform.html>,
 - There have been a number of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* in line with election commitments made in April 2012 aimed at increasing access to national parks for ecotourism and reducing red tap through reducing regulation http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2012/2012_11_13_WEEKLY.pdf

Jane Ambrose

- On 1 February 2013 Australia submitted its State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to the World Heritage Committee. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/great-barrier-reef/information.html>

Robyn Agnew

- The first round of the Tourism Industry Regional Fund (TIRF) closed on 14 December 2012. Over 700 applications were received which included a good mix of innovation and upgrade proposals. Applicants were expected to be formally advised of the outcome of their application in March 2013 through an announcement by the Hon. Martin Ferguson, AM MP, Minister for Tourism. A second round is expected to be announced in the second half of 2013, and
- In conjunction with Tourism Australia and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, DRET had developed a China Approved Destination (ADS) Scheme to restore integrity, competition and fair trading to the operation of the ADS inbound market and empower Chinese inbound tourists with knowledge and choice to exercise effective consumer power in the inbound market http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/business/china-ads-scheme/Pages/ChinaADSscheme.aspx#_about_the_china

Leslie Shirreffs

- The Queensland Government were currently working on a whole of government offset policy which seeks to consolidate the current vegetation, fisheries and koala habitat offset policy. The new policy would be accredited under the EPBC Act, and
- The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Hon Andrew Powell had undertaken to review the Queensland Biodiversity Strategy.

Resolution

The Board noted the Directors' and Observers' reports.

2.3 Executive Director's report (Monday 11.30am to 11.55am)

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

- The next scheduled GBR Ministerial Forum is 20 May 2013, and the Authority has proposed to Minister Powell and through him Minister Burke that a Wet Tropics Ministerial Council meeting be held on the same day,
- The 2013-18 Strategic Plan had been completed and would be distributed to key stakeholders,
- The 2011/12 Annual Report has been tabled in both the Australian and Queensland parliaments,
- The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA) had advised the Authority that they had concerns with the proposed 2012/13 State of Wet Tropics theme on the 'Participation of Rainforest Aboriginal people in the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area' and suggested the theme be developed for the 2013/14 State of Wet Tropics Report.

Resolution

The Board:

- *thanked the Executive Director for his report,*
- *requested the Chair's report to Ministerial Council (May 2013) be distributed to directors for comment, and*
- *noted that the Authority would be developing an alternative theme for the 2012/13 State of Wet Tropics Report.*

2.4 QPWS Wet Tropics Quarterly Activity Update (Monday 12.00noon to 12.48pm)

James Newman, Regional Director, QPWS Northern Region addressed the Board and tabled a milestone report for July- December 2012 outlining progress towards implementation of the 2012/13 WTMA/QPWS Partnership Agreement (**Attachment 2.4 (1)**).

Peter Valentine advised directors that he and the Director General, Andrew Chesterman had signed off on the draft MoU in November 2012.

Andrew Maclean advised that the Director General DEPH Andrew Chesterman had written a letter to DG DNPRSR Dr John Glaister, encouraging him to sign the *Memorandum of Understanding – Wet Tropics Partnership Agreement* which provides for the transfer of funds from the Wet Tropics Management Authority to the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) in relation to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Jane Ambrose advised that the current funding arrangement is an important way of transparently demonstrating Queensland's continuing commitment to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Board directors expressed concern that the Agreement had not yet been signed by all parties.

Resolution

The Board noted the QPWS Wet Tropics milestone report.

2.5 Community Consultative Committee (Monday 12.48pm to 1.25pm)

Rhonda Sorensen presented the CCC report to the Board and advised that:

- the CCC met on 15 February 2013 and that draft minutes were not yet available,

- members discussed the proposed Ella Bay development, with some individual members voicing concerns about the nature and scale of the project, and
- members were very pleased to be working with Authority staff in planning the regional community summits.

Resolution

The Board noted the CCC minutes met on 15 February 2012.

2.6 Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee Report was taken as read.

Resolution

The Board noted the Scientific Advisory Committee Report.

3.0 WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION

3.1 Situation and Issues Report – Protection (Monday 1.45pm to 2.05pm)

Max Chappell briefed the Board and advised that:

- The Queensland Governor in Council approved the zoning amendments for Sunday Creek powerline and Wujal Wujal housing in early February 2013, and
- the Authority submitted a request to the Office of State Revenue for approval to create Infringement Notice offences under the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* for simple offences that are not indictable. An amendment has now been made to *the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000* allowing an authorised officer to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for an offence under s26(1) of the Plan.

Resolution

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

3.2 Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development (Tuesday 8.45am to 11.20am)

Bruce Jennison addressed the Board. He advised that:

- in November 2012, the Queensland Coordinator-General determined that the Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development could proceed subject to conditions and certain commitments made by the proponent <http://www.dlg.qld.gov.au/resources/project/ella-bay/ella-bay-eis-report.pdf>
- in December 2012, the Commonwealth Environment Minister announced his approval of the project subject to conditions
- while the development is to be undertaken on a freehold property adjoining the World Heritage Area (WHA), there is a 1.56 km section of the access road (Ella Bay Road) that is within the WHA. If the development is to proceed, the proponent (Satori Resorts Ella Bay Pty Ltd) will need a Wet Tropics permit from the Authority to upgrade that section of the Ella Bay Road within the WHA, and

- in anticipation of an application from the proponent, the Authority has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the proposed road upgrade in accordance with Part 4 Division 2 to 4 of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*.

Bruce Jennison outlined the steps involved for submitting and assessing a permit application under the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*; provided an overview of the development proposal; and details of the Queensland and Commonwealth Government approval conditions.

The Board considered the Authority's preliminary assessment and noted:

- the proposed development will impact on the Area through development of the property on Lot 320 N157629 and through the upgrade of the access road
- the risk posed to fauna and particularly to cassowaries by the increased traffic for residents and visitors on an upgraded Ella Bay Road
- impacts relating to the Ella Bay development have the potential to degrade cassowary habitat from edge effects; introduction of weeds; disturbance from increased human activity; and from increased noise level and lighting
- the proposed construction, design and use of the cassowary fencing was innovative, but its application in a natural setting was unproven technology. In addition, the terrain where fencing will be erected is rugged in sections, and subject to cyclonic weather conditions
- the vegetated areas of the Ella Bay site are areas of high ecological significance from a State and Commonwealth perspective (through legislation and policy instruments) and also have outstanding (World Heritage) universal values, and these need to be better documented, and
- the provision of water to the development and the treatment of storm water run off, waste water and sewage have the potential to impact on the amount and quality of surface and ground water, and particularly on the adjacent Ella Bay Swamp Wetland (Nationally Important Wetland) within the WHA to the north of the development.

Peter Valentine thanked the Authority for the preliminary assessment, and the Board noted that it would be further refined and updated based on the requirements specified in the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*.

Andrew Maclean advised the Board that the final assessment would be provided to the Board for approval, following receipt of an application from the proponent.

Resolution

The Board:

- *recognized the outstanding values of the Ella Bay location for tourism, notes the scale of the proposed development and its potential for impacting on the OUV of the Wet Tropics,*
- *commends all involved in preparing the very detailed conditions and commitments designed to avoid or minimize these impacts,*
- *in particular commends the Authority staff for the skill and effort that has gone into preparing the very detailed material submitted to Board No. 92 in order to inform and facilitate consideration of any future permit applications,*
- *noted the Queensland Coordinator-General's determination on 19 November 2012 that the Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development can*

proceed subject to conditions and certain commitments made by the proponent, Satori Resorts Ella Bay Pty Ltd,

- *noted the decision by the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) to allow the development and operation of the Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development and associated infrastructure including a suitable access route from Flying Fish Point to Ella Bay,*
- *noted the SEWPaC Approval Decision Brief to the Commonwealth Minister regarding the assessment dated 3 December 2012,*
- *noted that the Authority has reviewed the Coordinator-General's Report on the environmental impact statement for the development, and the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Minister's approvals for the development,*
- *noted that the Authority has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the proposed Ella Bay Integrated Resort Development in accordance with Part 4 Division 2 to 4 of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998, and as a result has suggested a number of additional conditions to ensure the protection of the OUV of the WTQWHA,*
- *noted that the Authority generally agrees that the Coordinator-General's assessment report provides a thorough discussion of the likely impacts of the proposal on the WTQWHA and concurs with the assessment report's conclusion that the impacts on the World Heritage Area are not unacceptable provided the proponent implements the management measures and the design features for the development (including the access road) as stated in the conditions (Attachment 3.2(1) 1 and Attachment 3.2(2)) and proponent commitments (Attachment 3.2(4)) of the assessment report, and*
- *noted that the Authority considers that the Commonwealth Minister's approval condition 11 provides reasonable surety that the fauna fencing required to protect cassowaries will be constructed and will continue to be maintained.*

3.3 Blue Pools Cooper Creek, Daintree (Monday 1.55pm to 12.50pm)

Bruce Jennison addressed the Board and advised that staff from WTMA and Cairns Regional Council had recently undertaken a site inspection of Cooper Creek and its surrounds.

Ro Hill commented that she had noticed an increase in sedimentation in Cooper Creek over the past 20 years, and suggested that the source of the increased sediment originated further upstream from a sediment trap.

Authority staff offered to undertake a site inspection with Ro Hill and report back to the Board.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the management responses developed by land trustees, Cairns Regional Council and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, to address concerns about impacts from visitors to Blue Pools,*

- *noted that the Land Management Plan for Blue Pools Reserve has been agreed to by all parties and will come into operation as soon as it is officially registered, and*
- *noted the Authority has undertaken discussions with Cairns Regional Council to seek improvements to sediment control along Turpentine Road.*

4.0 WORLD HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

4.1 Situation and Issues Report – Conservation and Rehabilitation (Monday 2.05pm to 2.25pm)

Max Chappell addressed the Board and advised that the Authority submitted two expressions of interest to the Biodiversity Fund 2013/2014, including one for wildlife corridors at Smiths Gap and the other to continue the Making Connections project at East Evelyn.

Resolution

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

4.2 Bloomfield (Cape Tribulation of Cooktown) Road (Tuesday 11.10am to 1.30pm)

Campbell Clarke addressed the Board and advised that:

- The Cape Tribulation Link Road Management Plan has been submitted by the Far North Queensland Regional Roads Group (FNQRRG) for endorsement by the Authority
- The three councils involved acknowledge that permit applications for road upgrades and infrastructure will still be required and will be assessed against the provisions of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* and that the Authority is under no obligation to approve permits for all recommendations in the road management plan
- Cairns Regional Council and the Authority are still negotiating the exact wording of the draft road management plan. While much of the draft road management plan is acceptable to the Authority, there are some important changes still to be included, and
- the Authority has consistently maintained that the Cape Tribulation link road should be managed to protect and present the unique environmental and scenic values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Board considered the draft Cape Tribulation Road Link Management Plan and noted that:

- the draft plan did not fully address the environmental, social, cultural, economic and scenic impacts of upgrading the road
- traffic volumes at the Daintree Ferry were reaching maximum capacity and that it was important to manage the Daintree Ferry and Emmagen Creek at current levels as fuse points
- the Cairns Regional Council has received (limited life) Queensland Government funds to upgrade Woobadda Creek.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the current draft Cape Tribulation Road Link Management Plan prepared by Cairns Regional Council on behalf of the Far North Queensland Regional Roads Group (Attachment 4.2 (1)),*
- *noted the draft road management plan provides the first step in fulfilling the Authority's requirements for a planning study to inform future permit applications for road upgrades and infrastructure within the World Heritage Area, and*
- *noted that Cairns Regional Council intends to submit a permit application to construct a bridge over Woobadda Creek in the near future,*
- *subject to final changes negotiated by the Authority in the finalised road management plan, accepts it as sufficient for consideration of permit application for the Woobadda Creek crossing, and*
- *requests Authority staff to continue to work cooperatively with the Cairns Regional Council, Cook Shire Council and the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Traditional Owners, the Queensland Government and other interested parties to address the broader social, environmental, cultural and socioeconomic impacts on the OUV of the Wet Tropics Area and to seek opportunities to develop a more detailed management plan for the road which implements the shared vision outlined in the initial plan of a truly iconic Australian tourist route that presents the OUV of the Wet Tropics.*

4.3 Yellow Crazy Ants (Monday 2.25pm to 2.45pm)

Max Chappell addressed the Board and advised that the Authority's monitoring project has recently revealed one new infestation in the north of Bentley Park. It is believed this site is the direct result of the dumping of garden waste. Monitoring has also shown that the yellow crazy ants west of Edmonton have spread to a larger area

The Board agreed that the lack of any current program to eradicate and limit the spread of crazy ant infestations within and adjacent to the Area is a serious issue for World Heritage management.

Max Chappell advised that the Authority has made application to the *Carbon Biodiversity Fund* for funds to undertake a comprehensive tramp ant program in relation to the WTWHA.

Resolution

The Board

- *noted the update on efforts to control and eradicate yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics,*
- *confirmed the serious nature of this infestation and the potential threat to OUV of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area,*
- *confirmed the potential catastrophic impacts on tourism and recreational use of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and*
- *welcomed the Authority's application for funds to eradicate yellow crazy ants.*

4.4 Conservation Sector Liaison Group Report (CSLG) - (Monday 2.45pm to 3.00pm) and Monday (5.15pm to 5.25pm)

Max Chappell addressed the Board.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the draft CSLG minutes of December 2012,*
- *noted the resignation of Ms Sarah Hoyal as the CSLG chairperson, and*
- *invited Ms Anna McGuire, the new Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) Coordinator, to accept the position of chair of CSLG.*

5.0 WORLD HERITAGE PRESENTATION

5.1 Situation and Issues Report – World Heritage Presentation (Monday 3.29pm to 3.55pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the meeting and provided updates on relevant issues including that officers from Balkanu had visited the Authority to discuss long distance walking opportunities in the northern section of the bioregion (Cooktown to Mossman, including Cedar Bay).

In December 2012, Cairns Aquarium and Reef Research Centre Pty Ltd purchased a vacant land parcel in the Cairns CBD for a public aquarium attraction. Discussions have taken place between the Authority and Daniel Leipnik about the opportunity for the World Heritage Gateway Centre to be housed within the Aquarium building if the project is successful in achieving funding partners to completion.

Resolution

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

6.0 ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

6.1 Situation and Issues Report – Role in the Life of the Community (Monday 3.55pm to 4.10pm)

Nigel Hedgcock addressed the Board and provided an update on Indigenous community engagement activities. He advised that the Authority had a positive and productive workshop with RAPA on 25 January 2013 to progress a partnership agreement. This workshop discussed issues, goals and principles and agreed a framework and process for finalising the agreement, including what would be included and how and by whom and when the agreement be prepared and an action plan for its implementation

Patricia O’Loghlen addressed the Board and provided an update on the community forums.

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 National Heritage Listing of the Wet Tropics for Rainforest Aboriginal Indigenous Heritage Values (4.10pm to 5.00pm)

Andrew Maclean and Nigel Hedgcock addressed the Board and provided an update on NHL listing. There would be an opportunity to discuss this issue at the next Wet Tropics Ministerial Council meeting in May 2013.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the Policy, Programming and Operational Response of the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Alliance (RAPA) to relisting of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for its Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values at Attachment 6.2 (1), and*
- *noted that the Authority has had preliminary engagement with RAPA and other Rainforest Aboriginal entities and SEWPaC with the intention to support the development and implementation of arrangements to consolidate collaborative policy and programs giving effect to the placement of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on the National Heritage List (NHL).*

6.3 Cassowary Awards (Tuesday 1.15pm to 1.45pm)

Patricia O'Loughlen addressed the Board. The Authority has commenced planning for the 2013 Cassowary Awards which will also be the 25th Anniversary for World Heritage Listing of the Wet Tropics for Natural Values.

The Board discussed the award nomination and selection process leading up to the Awards ceremony, support for the Awards, promotion of the Awards and how the Awards are presented.

Resolution

The Board:

- *noted the information provided in the Cassowary Award Discussion Paper at Attachment 6.3 (1), and*
- *requested the Authority prepare Terms of Reference for a Cassowary Award selection subcommittee.*

7.0 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

7.1 2011/12 Annual work plan and budget mid-year review (Tuesday 1.45pm to 2.5pm)

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

Resolution

The Board

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

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Board dates 2013

Andrew Maclean addressed the Board.

The Board noted the date of the next Board meeting (No 93) would be held on 5-6 June 2013 in the Cassowary Coast region.

Meeting closed at 2.30 pm Tuesday 19 February 2013