

Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) Board Priorities 2015-2018

The WTMA Mission

Lead, inspire, advise and support the Australian and global community to protect and share the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in perpetuity.

WTMA roles

1. Conserving...

Building strong, supportive and collaborative partnerships, the Wet Tropics Management Authority provides leadership, guidance and advocacy for the protection and rehabilitation of the outstanding values of our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – securing a living, vibrant legacy for future generations.

2. Sharing...

Working in partnership to present and promote discovery, understanding and connection to the rich natural and cultural values of our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, the Wet Tropics Management Authority seeks to ensure that this ancient and irreplaceable landscape is treasured and celebrated by all.

3. Enriching...

Through conservation, research, tourism and community partnerships, the Wet Tropics Management Authority promotes enjoyment and appreciation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – connecting and creating outstanding opportunities to enrich the lives of people everywhere.

WTMA strategic goals

The WTMA strategic plan is structured around seven strategic goals that describe the ultimate outcomes the Authority aspires to. They are:

1. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is protected and maintained consistent with Australia's obligation under the World Heritage Convention.
2. Communities derive benefit and value from the World Heritage Area, are effectively involved in planning and management and their stewardship of the World Heritage Area is recognised and supported.
3. Rainforest Aboriginal People are supported in expressing their knowledge, culture and management practices on country.
4. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is used, enjoyed and celebrated as the world's finest learning landscape for tropical rainforests and their sustainable management.
5. World Heritage Area values are supported and presented through sustainable tourism.
6. Enduring partnerships enhance the integrity of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, its presentation and its function in the life of the community.
7. The Wet Tropics Management Authority is an accountable and capable organisation.

These strategic goal statements map to one or more of the general World Heritage Convention goals that apply to all World Heritage properties.

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- **Climate Change:** Pursue climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect and conserve the integrity of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA) (Role 1, Goals 1 & 6).

Milestones:

- *Partnerships established with relevant organisations to collaboratively address adaptation and mitigation strategies*
- *Monitoring and reporting regime in place to identify impacts on OUV*
- *Number of projects implemented to respond to impacts on OUV.*
- **Partnerships with Rainforest Aboriginal People:** Further engage and partner with Rainforest Aboriginal people to develop economic opportunities through ranger programs, tourism and scientific research within the WTWHA (Roles 2 & 3, Goals 2, 3 & 5).

Milestones:

- *A refreshed and supported engagement approach established with Rainforest Aboriginal people*
- *A joint action plan to identify economic opportunity priorities and more comprehensive involvement in the management of the WTWHA prepared and implementation commenced*
- *At least two collaborative projects established that contribute to social, economic and cultural development of Rainforest Aboriginal people and the conservation or presentation of the WTWHA.*
- **Community Engagement:** Deepen the relationship with the community and increase relevance and recognition of the work done by the Authority (Roles 2 & 3, Goals 2, 6 & 7).

Milestones:

- *The Community Consultative Committee re-established by 1 October 2016*
- *At least one community/industry forum held each calendar year*
- *Number of planned interactions between the Board Chair and/or Board Directors with industry/community organisations*
- *Communiqué released to stakeholders and minutes published on the website following each Board meeting.*
- **Science:**
 - Science is sought and used to inform decision-making, in partnership with research institutions (Role 1, Goals 1, 2 & 4)
 - Recognise and utilise the outcomes of formal scientific research and knowledge held by Rainforest Aboriginal people to shape management of the WTWHA (Roles 2 & 3, Goals 2 & 3)
 - Develop a formal mechanism for individuals and institutions conducting research within the WTWHA to give back to indigenous communities they engage with, through both financial and knowledge transfer arrangements (Role 3, Goal 3).

Milestones:

- *The Scientific Advisory Committee re-established by 1 October 2016*
- *A priority science action plan, relevant to the management and policy needs of the WTWHA, endorsed by the Board*
- *Number of priority science projects/partnerships commenced*
- *A formal mechanism for researchers developed and implemented to ensure appropriate engagement with and involvement by Rainforest Aboriginal people in research activities and outcomes.*

- *Number of co-research projects established between researchers and relevant Rainforest Aboriginal people*
- *Number of research papers published/communicated to maximise understanding and uptake.*
- **Presentation and Tourism:** Improve presentation and marketing of the WTWHA in conjunction with tourism and other stakeholders (Role 2 & 3, Goals 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6).

Milestones:

- *Strategic investment plan for branding and promotion of the World Heritage Area is prepared and implemented*
- *Number of tour guide and visitor information centre staff training activities held*
- *WTWHA information (digital and printed) upgraded in at least one visitor information centre or display per year*
- *Number of projects delivered in partnership with the Tourism Industry for the collaboration and sustainable management and use of the WTWHA.*
- **Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication:** Secure sufficient funding to continue baiting programs and further research of yellow crazy ants with a goal of eradication (Role 1, Goal 1).

Milestones:

- *Confirmation of funding received from the Australian and Queensland Governments to achieve eradication by September 2016*
- *Effective coordination of the response by the Authority*
- *Specialist management team developed and actioned*
- *Ongoing monitoring and surveillance system established.*
- **Day to Day Management:** Progress a three year (2016 – 2019) Partnership Agreement with NPSR to support management of the protected area estate within the WTWHA (Roles 1 & 2, Goals 1, 2, 6 & 7)

Milestones:

- *A three-year agreement setting out collaborative arrangements, priorities and targets for protection and presentation of OUV agreed and signed by September 2016.*
- *Partnership Agreement includes a mechanism for filling vacancies with Indigenous positions as they arise.*
- **Resourcing:** Investigate options for 'user pays' mechanisms and how revenue might be used by the Authority in management, presentation and programs as well as to benefit Rainforest Aboriginal people and other communities within the WTWHA (Roles 2 & 3, Goals 4, 5, 6 & 7).

Milestones:

- *Options for User-Pays and other revenue raising opportunities to support management and presentation of the WTWHA developed for consultation with governments and stakeholders*
- *Innovative proposals that provide economic benefit for communities whilst supporting management and presentation of the WTWHA identified and prioritised for progression.*