

**Minutes**

**Board directors**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Ms Leslie Shirreffs | Chair   |
| Ms Anne Clarke      | Director  |
| Mr John Courtenay   | Director  |
| Prof Iain Gordon    | Director  |
| Ms Leah Talbot      | Director  |
| Mr Scott Buchanan   | Executive Director  |
| Mr Jason Jacobi     | Executive Director, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR) |

**Official Observers**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Mr Neal Muller  | General Manager, Industry Development, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games |
| Mr Nick Weinert | Director, Strategic Environmental Programs, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)                   |

**WTMA officers**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dr Paul Chantrill     | Manager, Communities, Aboriginal Partnerships and Tourism |
| Mr Max Chappell       | Manager, Planning and Conservation                        |
| Ms Rebecca Lagerroth  | Manager, Aboriginal Partnerships (items 3.1, 3.5 and 3.7) |
| Ms Patricia O'Lughlen | Principal Project Officer (items 3.1, 3.4 and 3.6)        |
| Mr Campbell Clarke    | Principal Planning Officer (items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)       |
| Ms Ellen Weber        | Executive Officer   |

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. Chair's welcome**

The chair Leslie Shirreffs opened the meeting at 9.05am and acknowledged the Gimuy Walaburra Yidinji and the Yirrganydji Traditional Owners of the Cairns Area.

The chair acknowledged the Rainforest Aboriginal people, and the Elders past and present and future of the Wet Tropics region.

The chair welcomed directors Ms Anne Clarke, Mr John Courtenay, Prof Iain Gordon and Ms Leah Talbot to the meeting.

The chair welcomed Mr Neal Muller, General Manager, Industry Development, Department of Tourism, Major Events and Small Business to the meeting. The chair was pleased to have a Queensland tourism department representative attend board meetings, given the fundamental significance of tourism to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and regional economy. The chair welcomed Jason Jacobi, Executive Director, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing to the meeting.

The chair welcomed Nick Weinert, A/Director, Strategic Environmental Projects, Conservation and Sustainability Policy, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

The chair advised that the Authority was still waiting for advice on the appointment of the second indigenous director to the board, and remained confident that there would be a full quorum by the next board meeting.

## 1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from representatives from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (DoE).

The chair advised directors and observers that the previous DoE board observer, Ms Veronica Blazely, had transferred to another agency in Canberra. The chair thanked Veronica Blazely for her contributions to the Authority and World Heritage management, and wished her the very best for her future.

## 1.3. Conflict of Interests

No conflicts identified for today's meeting.

## 1.4 Previous Minutes from Meeting No. 95

### Resolution

*The board **approved** the minutes for meeting number 95.*

## 1.5 Actions Arising

The chair referred to the Actions Arising from the previous meeting and updated on issues.

**Item 95/2.3** *Board field trip.* Scott Buchanan advised that the Authority would recommend a suitable field trip location and date once other board meeting dates and commitments for 2016 were confirmed.

**Item 95/3.7** *Wet Tropics Ministerial Forum.* Scott Buchanan advised that it was unlikely that a GBR Ministerial Forum would convene in July 2016, and that it could be as late as October 2016. There are logistical benefits of holding GBR and WT Ministerial forums back to back on the same day, given the overlap in membership. There will

be more certainty after the 2016 Federal election. Once a final date has been decided, agenda papers will be negotiated through the relevant departments.

**Item 95/4.1** *Meeting with Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (MDFVGA).* Leslie Shirreffs confirmed that she would be meeting with the President of MDFVGA, Mr Jo Moro, on the 6 May 2016 to discuss yellow crazy ants and other issues.

**Item 95/4.1** *Yellow Crazy Ant eradication - letter to Minister Curtis Pitt.* Scott Buchanan advised that the Authority was successful in obtaining \$3M from the State Government. The Authority provided significant input into a funding submission seeking the Commonwealth to match funding 50/50. The State government have advised that they were seeking a 20/80 funding split with the Commonwealth government (refer to the Executive Director report at item 2.3 for additional information).

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the actions arising items, as updated.*

#### **Actions**

- *Chair to provide an Out-of-Session (OOS) briefing on outcomes of meeting with Minister Curtis Pitt to fellow directors.*

## **2.0 STANDING REPORTS**

### **1. Chair's Report**

The chair provided a verbal report and advised that she had recently met with Minister Miles, and he was very supportive of the yellow crazy ant eradication program, and pleased to be able to provide support into other government funding bids. The chair advised that issue of user pay was discussed, and the Minister indicated that he was pleased that the Authority was investigating opportunities to generate alternate revenue streams, and encouraged us to engage with QPWS on this work. This work aligns with current analyses that QPWS is undertaking, and that both departments should work together to progress. The Minister also confirmed that the previous government's review into World Heritage Governance and administration was not being progressed any further.

The chair thanked directors for participating at the two stakeholder sessions held on 3 May, the *Tourism and Economic Roundtable*, and the Community Engagement meeting, which was considered very productive, and a good introduction to various stakeholder groups. This issues and actions arising from these meetings will be discussed in further detail at items 4.1 and 4.2.

The chair reiterated that like other directors, she was keen to confirm a joint meeting (probably the next board meeting) with Terrain NRM to discuss strategic partnership opportunities that enhance the integrity and resilience of the Wet Tropics Area.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the Chair's Report.*

### **2. Directors issues**

**Professor Iain Gordon** updated the board and advised that in his role as Chair of the Ethics committee and Head of Graduate students, he worked with the Australian and Torres Strait Islander

Centre and the Office of the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor at James Cook University to run a number of workshops on *Research in an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Context*. These workshops are designed for JCU researchers to improve their research approach and influence how they engage with and conduct research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. When the new WTMA SAC is established, this could be an initiative for them to implement, with a view to developing a broader protocol for other Wet Tropics researchers wanting to work with Rainforest Aboriginal people. Iain Gordon also thanked Authority staff for assisting his visitors from the Oregon State University.

**John Courtenay** thanked Scott Buchanan and the WTMA team for organizing the Tourism and Economic roundtable, which he found both useful and a good stepping stone to working together with regional FNQ leaders on new ventures.

**Anne Clarke** advised the board that she, along with some Authority staff, assessed the 2016 Student Grant Scheme proposals and was extremely impressed by the calibre of applications received. She suggested that there would be value in requesting the successful recipients to present their research results to the board sometime in the future. Anne also alerted the board to the recent media attention to the extent and severity of coral bleaching along the GBR coastline. Whilst not questioning the science; the public controversy in the media highlighted the need for marine researchers to maintain links and conversations with the tourism industry.

**Leah Talbot** advised the board that she attended the public launch of the Cape York NRM plan, and recommended it to other directors. Leah Talbot also noted that she was invited to speak at Wuchopperen Health Services (Ltd), a community controlled indigenous health organisation, which was established to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A number of staff expressed interest in the work undertaken at the Authority, and would like to meet with Authority staff in the future.

Directors discussed the Developing Northern Australia CRC, and potential for the Authority to be engaged with setting the agenda and priorities for the program. Iain Gordon advised that Mr John Wharton, Richmond Shire Mayor, was appointed the interim chair, and that the Australian government is investing \$75 million into the CRC, which is focused on business, government, job investment and economic development. John Courtenay noted that the new CRC was not very focused on tourism, including remote area tourism, which he considered disappointing given the success of some terrific initiatives (for example Savannah Guides) which remains an excellent model for economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the director's issues.*

#### **Actions**

- *WTMA to organise for Student research scheme recipients to present their research outcomes at a future meeting*
- *Iain Gordon to keep the board updated on outcomes and implementation the JCU Research workshops, and any opportunities for SAC involvement.*
- *WTMA to seek opportunities to be involved in the northern Australia CRC, particularly with progressing tourism and or research agendas.*
- *WTMA to organise a meeting with Wuchopperen Health Services (Ltd), to coincide with a future Chair's visit. Leah Talbot to attend if available.*

### **3. Board observer issues**

**Jason Jacobi** was pleased to advise the board that QPWS recently recruited an additional four Indigenous rangers to the northern region, including two in Cooktown, one in Mossman and one in Hopevale. In addition, there would be a new position created in the Cairns office to support indigenous engagement.

Jason Jacobi thanked Scott Buchanan for presenting at a recent 3-day QPWS technical workshop for northern staff, and to Authority staff for their participation. Jason Jacobi advised that there was significant global attention, media and participants at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Smithfield Conservation Park (23-24 April). QPWS invested significantly into the event, which would have generated significant revenue for Cairns business and community.

Jason Jacobi alerted the board to a coronial inquiry underway that may have important implications for Wet Tropics park management. The inquiry is investigating a matter where a person was killed after their vehicle ran into a large feral animal as it crossed the highway (which intersected a National Park) along the Bruce highway. QPWS are aware of their responsibility and obligations to human life and safety on the protected area estate, and that the road was managed by the department of Main Roads. Whilst there have been no formal recommendations from the enquiry to date, QPWS are aware that the findings may influence a change in management practices.

**Nick Weinert** advised directors that they are currently recruiting members to the Riversleigh, Fraser Island and Gondwana World Heritage committees. These committees expired in 2015, and re-establishing the committees takes some time, particularly for Gondwana WHA which requires the approval of two state environment ministers. Nick Weinert advised that there had been limited progress to date on the Cooloola Extension to the Fraser Island WHA; and that they had not received any official information about funding for that work.

Nick Weinert advised that a number of his team are heavily involved in working on the environmental offsets component of the proposed amendments to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, which was an election commitment in 2015.

**Neal Muller** thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the meeting and to provide an update on his department's work program. Neal Muller advised the board that the tourism sector remained an important economic pillar for the Queensland economy, particularly as mining investment is declining globally.

Neal Muller advised the board of funding opportunities and bids for public tourism infrastructure. The next round would be announced later in 2016, and one of the eligibility requirements is 80% investment from the applicant. Neal Muller advised that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Destination Q* Conference would be held later this year. This is an important forum for industry, business, and government to network and reaffirm priorities and progress Queensland's tourism agenda. Up to 400 delegates are expected to attend and the Authority would also benefit from participating.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the board observers' issues.*

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Scott Buchanan tabled a written report to the board (**Attachment 2.3 (1)**) and also provided a verbal report. He noted that Hon Mark Bailey, Queensland Minister for Main Roads and Transport had recently announced \$300,000 in funding to upgrade interpretive facilities at the Henry Ross Lookout on the Kuranda Range Road, and the Authority would continue to contribute to the planning group.

Scott Buchanan was pleased to advise that Hon Curtis Pitt, the Queensland Treasurer, announced \$3M (over a three-year period) as the State's contribution to funding the yellow crazy ant

eradication program. Scott noted that the funding was based on an assumed 80/20 split Federal/State funding model as per the national tramp ants funding arrangements. The Authority remained optimistic of a Commonwealth government announcement by mid-June.

Scott Buchanan advised the board that in March 2016, The Authority (through the chair) had written to Minister Miles, in his capacity of chair of the Wet Tropics Ministerial forum, seeking approval for the Authority to commence its second 10-yearly review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan. Minister Miles considered this request and approved the Authority to commence the 10-year review, noting it will be completed before 18 May 2018.

Scott Buchanan advised that he attended a national World Heritage Senior Officials meeting in Canberra (March 2016) and they were briefed on a number of emerging issues. The Authority presented the framework developed for reporting on the Outstanding Universal Values and management of the WHA. It was apparent at the meeting that Queensland is more advanced in this work than any other State or jurisdiction.

#### **Resolution**

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

#### **Actions**

- *WTMA to commence work on the 10-yearly statutory review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*
- *WTMA to prepare timelines and framework for review of the Plan for August meeting*
- *WTMA to provide significant inward and outward correspondence as part of meeting packages*

### **3.0 STRATEGIC ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Terms of Reference for Wet Tropics Committees and Options for Appointment**

Scott Buchanan addressed the board and briefed them on the current status of the WTMA Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). Draft ToR, functions and responsibilities, proposed membership and timelines for both of these committees were presented to the board for their consideration and input.

The Authority was working towards having the CCC meet for the first time in August 2016; and for the SAC membership to be approved by the board around the same time. Board directors reiterated their support for re-establishing these committees and provided the following comments:

- It may be too ambitious to have the CCC meet by August 2016, given Expressions of Interest need to be amended and approved OOS by the board, advertised in the local and regional newspapers and nominations submitted to the board for approval
- The committees will provide independent (community and scientific) advice to the board (c.f. the Authority) and it was important to enable two-way communication between the committees and the board
- The committees key areas of focus, and their roles and functions (as outlined in the draft ToR) should be amended, to reflect that they will emerge from the Board's strategic priorities for 2015-18 and with input from within the committees
- There would be benefits (and efficiencies) in appointing directors to Chair the committees, so that the committees advice is well presented; and to retain the committees' confidence that their views are being tabled, considered by the board, and reported back to the committee

- It was important to ensure appropriate Rainforest Aboriginal participation on the CCC (i.e. one male and one female)
- Membership of the SAC will include up to 8 members, and that social, economic, biophysical and cultural expertise should be sought
- It was not necessary to have four meetings a year for either committee; meetings should be issues-driven; and agendas should be developed in conjunction with committee chairs
- The Terms of Reference for both committees should be consistent in format and layout.

#### **Resolutions**

*The board:*

- **endorsed** the CCC and SAC draft Terms of Reference (as amended) for circulating to directors out of session for approval.
- **endorsed** the subsequent proposal to proceed with establishing the committee and to be circulated out of session.
- **noted** the proposed timelines for progressing of SAC and CCC appointment, with the view to their first meetings to be held between the August and December 2016 meeting.
- **noted** that the WTMA Chair will appoint SAC and CCC Chairs.

#### **Actions**

- WTMA to advertise vacancies for CCC and SAC in regional newspapers,
- WTMA to amend draft ToR for the CCC and SAC to ensure that each have a consistent format.

### **3.2 Wet Tropics Reporting Framework**

The Authority has developed the framework to better report on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Area and the management of threats to the Area's integrity. Campbell Clarke presented this work to directors as an after dinner presentation 3 May 2016.

The board were advised that the framework is also a useful reference document reporting to various State, Commonwealth and World Heritage bodies, through UNESCO (periodic), state of Wet Tropics, Outlook and National Heritage reporting.

The chair and directors thanked Campbell Clarke for his informative presentation.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted the** powerpoint presentation for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.*

#### **Action**

- *WTMA to send a copy of Wet Tropics Reporting framework (powerpoint. ppt) presentation to Board director.*

### **3. State of Wet Tropics future themes**

Max Chappell addressed the board and provided details on the proposed schedule of statutory State of Wet Tropics reports from 2015/16 to 2019/20; the nexus between these and OUV reporting; and the rationale for the report themes.

The Authority allocates a budget (\$25-\$30K annually) for these reports to be prepared (contracted) by recognised experts in their respective fields. This provides an opportunity for the report to be influential in informing members of parliament and government agencies, World Heritage policy and management priorities and World Heritage land managers and stakeholders.

Scott Buchanan reminded Directors that the approved theme for 2015-16 was *Ancient, endemic and rare vertebrates of the Wet Tropics WHA*. The reporting framework proposes themes under the three pillars of OUV including World Heritage criteria and attributes, integrity and threats and protection and management.

Board directors were pleased to learn that implicit in this reporting is an 'outlook' section that provides information on the long-term future of the particular issue, and recommendations and/or opportunities for management actions.

Board directors also endorsed a long-term plan for reporting, noting that in unforeseen emerging issues, it may require a review of the theme planned for a particular year.

The board discussed the proposed themes, as amended, and recommended the following timelines for production:

- 2015/16 Ancient, endemic, rare and threatened vertebrates of the Wet Tropics WHA
- 2016/17 Natural beauty, aesthetic importance of the scenic values of the WHA.
- 2017/18 Involvement of Rainforest Aboriginal people in the management of the Wet Tropics WHA
- 2018/19 Integrity and resilience of the WHA (report card)

#### **Resolution**

*The board **endorsed** the recommended themes for the State of the Wet Tropics Report for 2015/16 to 2018/19 as amended.*

#### **Action**

- *WTMA to amend ToR for the 2015/16 State of Wet Tropics report to include 'threatened' vertebrates of the Wet Tropics.*

### **3.4 WTMA support for Wet Tropics Visitor Centres**

Paul Chantrill briefed the board and provided background information and examples on the type and extent of support the Authority has provided to Wet Tropic Visitor Information Centres (VIC) over the past two decades (depending on VIC). This has included signage, uniforms, interpretative information, and the Wet Tropics Visitor Magazine.

There are now around 20 Visitor Centres located around the Wet Tropics region, and as Authority has reduced, our financial support for centres has declined. By way of example, it cost \$1.2 million for the Tableland Regional Council rebuild and refurbish the Malanda Visitor Information Centre, and this was only possible due to insurance monies.

More recently, the Authority has been approached by the Cairns Aquarium Consortium, who has offered a dedicated space, at no cost, to build an interpretive presentation promoting the Wet Tropics WHA. This would require a one-off investment of \$100K by the Authority.

The board discussed the options, opportunities and risks associated with expending funds in one centre, facility or organisation, rather than working and investing with a number of local councils and partners throughout the region.



The board requested that the Authority scope out a framework for Wet Tropics presentation and investment into Visitor information Centres, including digital and hard copy collateral and interpretation. The strategy should articulate the Authority's role in presenting the OUV of the Area; World Heritage branding and marketing; mentoring and training (e.g. tour guides and VIC volunteers); and funding sources and partnerships.

Directors also observed that there may be opportunities to seek external funding for World Heritage presentation given the Wet Tropics would be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board **noted** the strategic direction for support of World Heritage visitor centres and key visitor attractions recognising that financial constraints may limit some components.*

#### **Action**

- *WTMA to develop a strategic framework for Wet Tropics presentation including investment into Visitor Information Centres, digital collateral and interpretation for the November meeting*

### **3.5 Recognition and Protection of Rainforest Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values**

Rebecca Lagerroth addressed the board and reminded them that the Australian Government accepted a nomination by Rainforest Aboriginal people for the inclusion of Indigenous heritage values on the existing National Heritage listing on 9 November 2012. Since that time there has been limited progress in advancing the listing requirements. Directors were provided with an extract from the EPBC Regulations that specified the components of a management plan and principles for Natural Heritage places.

The board were advised that any advancement of a cultural World Heritage listing or development of the Natural Heritage Management plan is subject to Traditional Owner endorsement and informed consent, as well as appropriate contributions (funding) from the State and Commonwealth Government.

Rebecca Lagerroth reminded directors that the Authority had been given approval to commence its review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998, and where possible, cultural considerations would be built into the review process, subject to Traditional Owner free, prior and informed consent and the legislative considerations.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the actions the Authority will take to deliver and/or facilitate to ensure international, national and state obligations in recognising and protecting cultural values are met.*

### **3.6 Cassowary Awards**

Patricia O'Loughlen addressed the meeting and provided background on the Cassowary Awards, which was the key engagement event for the Authority for a number of years (1999 to 2012). It helped elevate the profile of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area as well the Authority. The Authority will allocate \$15,000 from the 2016-17 budget for this work.

The Board were supportive of re-establishing the Cassowary Awards as a significant event for the Authority. They discussed options and opportunities to reinvigorate the ceremony to enable it to be reinstated as a premier event in the regional calendar.

Iain Gordon referred directors to the Nature of Scotland Awards, which could provide a useful framework and model for the Authority to adapt.

Directors provided guidance and instructions on the style of award ceremony and requested the Authority staff:

- develop a clear communications plan for the event, which may need to be provided to directors out of session
- seek additional sponsorship noting that in this first year it may be prudent to seek smaller amounts
- Ensure good media coverage.

Directors suggested that there could be a number of possible categories that could be included such as a Local Government Award, Rainforest Aboriginal Award, Community Services Infrastructure Provider Award; Innovation Award, Conservation Award; Youth/Education/School Award and Science Award.

The final categories will be provided to Board members as part of the draft communication plan.

Directors suggested an 'academy' style award, where three or four people may be nominated for an award, but there would be one 'winner'.

Directors recommended that previous award nominees and recipients could be renominated and receive an award (up to three times). This should be included in the updated nomination forms.

#### **Resolution**

*The board:*

- **approved** for Cassowary Awards to be held on Saturday 3 December 2016
- **approved** the ability of nominators to re-nominate previous awardees
- **provided** advice on the style of award presented, and recommended that the Authority develop a draft communication plan for out of session review by the Board.

#### **Actions**

- WTMA to develop a communication plan for the event for board consideration, if necessary out of session.
- WTMA to include information regarding nomination eligibility in the package sent out.
- WTMA officers to confirm final categories to be awarded (pending nominations received)
- WTMA to seek corporate and industry sponsorship for Awards.

### **3.7 Rainforest Aboriginal Strategic Engagement**

Rebecca Lagerroth addressed the board and advised that Authority and Terrain NRM staff are meeting with a group of experienced and knowledgeable Rainforest Aboriginal people (RAP) in May 2016 to seek strategic advice on how best to progress the recognition and protection of cultural values of the WHA. It was agreed that this first meeting be about getting people together, having an informal conversation over a meal and seeking general advice about the best way forward. This approach is based on mutual respect and aims to strengthen collaborative partnerships. A 'visual thinking' facilitator has been contracted to undertake work to map out visually the timeline of rainforest aboriginal participation and engagement in the Wet Tropics bioregion. An example of the facilitator's work was provided to directors.

Both WTMA and Terrain have indicated their commitment to continue engagement and provide on-going support and opportunities to Rainforest Aboriginal People, and would take guidance from RAP on the type and level of support and cooperation desired.

Progress has been steady, well planned and also well received to date.

Directors commended this work and were pleased to note that there was an interest (willingness) by Rainforest Aboriginal people to be involved.

#### **Resolution**

*The board **noted** the approach the Authority is taking to prepare for the first Rainforest Aboriginal interim working group meeting in May 2016.*

#### **Action**

- *WTMA to report on progress at the August 2016 board meeting, noting that this issue may be on the agenda for the joint Terrain/WTMA board meeting.*

### **3.8 WTMA Board Priorities 2015-2018**

As proposed during board meeting #95, held in February 2016, the chair tabled a document which synthesised the priorities proposed by board directors, identifying how the priorities relate to the Authority's Strategic Plan and propose how the above can be integrated into key performance indicators for the Board.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board **endorsed the** (updated) the Board priorities for 2015-18 at Attachment 3.8.(1)*

#### **Actions**

- *WTMA to put the endorsed strategic priorities document on website.*

### **4.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Economic and Tourism roundtable**

The Chair thanked directors for their contributions to the roundtable, and were very pleased to re-engage with this sector. Broad notes and outcomes of the meeting are provided at **Attachment 4.1 (1)**

#### **Actions**

- *Send out a communique to participants, including an email thanking them for their participation.*
- *Organise for Chair and ED to meet with those unable to attend at a future date.*
- *Follow up with Keith Noble (Terrain NRM) regarding WTMA ED participation at future Industry Liaison Group meetings.*

#### **4.2 Community Engagement Roundtable**

The Chair thanked directors for their contributions to the meeting, and were very pleased to have the opportunity to re-engage with the broader community sector. Notes from the meeting are provided at **Attachment 4.2(1)**

Directors thanked Scott Buchanan for facilitating the meeting.

### **Actions**

- *Send out a communique to participants, including an email thanking them for their participation.*
- *Follow up on Hillary Whitehouse offer to help prepare a 'learning plan' for the Wet Tropics*
- *Organise for Chair and ED to meet with those unable to attend at a future date.*

### **4.3 Board dates for August and November 2016 Board meetings**

Directors confirmed dates for the board meetings for the August and November 2016 meetings, noting that the Cassowary Awards should be held on a weekend to allow travel time for invited guests.

#### **Resolution**

##### *The Board*

- **approved** *Meeting No 97 to be held 24-25 August, noting that one of those days will be a joint WTMA/Terrain meeting, and may be off-site*
- **approved** *Board meeting No 98 to be held 1-2 December 2016 at a venue to be determined.*

#### **Actions**

- *Send out date claimers for August Board meeting.*
- *Send out date claimers for December 2016 Board meeting and for Cassowary Awards.*

### **4.4 Information Technology and board communications**

Directors discussed the distribution of board papers, and agreed that given paper copies would not be provided, unless necessary or specifically requested, those directors who did not have an i-pad would be provided with one.

#### **Actions**

- *Authority staff to Investigate options for purchase of i-pads for directors Courtenay, Talbot and the Australian Government (indigenous) representative.*

### **4.5 Chair and ED field trip 5-6 May**

The board noted that the Chair and the WTMA ED would be travelling in the field 5-6 May and would be meeting with a number of key stakeholders in the Cairns, Atherton, Mareeba, Mission Beach and Innisfail areas.

#### **Actions**

- *WTMA to provide a report back to directors on outcomes of meetings held with Minister Curtis Pitt.*
- *WTMA to send letter of thanks to the individuals and organisations that were consulted and briefed 5-6 May for Chair to sign off.*