

# MINUTES

<b>Meeting No.</b>	47
<b>Meeting</b>	Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee
<b>Date</b>	19 August 2021
<b>Time</b>	9:30am – 2:30 pm
<b>Venue</b>	Tyto wetlands precinct, Macrossan Avenue– Ingham

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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- 1. Attendance:** Michael Nash HSC, Matt Buckman HSC, Cr Kate Milton HSC, James Stewart HSC, Hannah Gilbert-Ball HSC, Damon Sydes CCRC, Josh Palmer CCRC, Dave Green BQ, Tony Salisbury BQ, Travis Sydes FNQROC – via MS Teams: Jade Monda CRC, Brad Everett DSC, Lewis De Franciscis CRC, Scott Morrison TRC
- 2. Apologies:** Amy Yates MSC, Chelsy Maloney Terrain NRM, Rob Cobon BQ, Keely McMillan MSC, Ken Golbey TRC
- 3. Guests:** Lucy Graham CAFNEC, Robby McLeod WTMA, Michelle O'Loughlin FNQROC- Barron River to Reef Climate Resilient Alliance
- 4. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: Moved:** Michael Nash, **Seconded:** Scott Morrison
- 5. Actions from Previous Meeting**

No.	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
44.10	<b>Illegal dumping and biosecurity considerations</b> <b>Action:</b> initiate conversation with relevant agencies in the FNQ for a cross-sector approach to illegal dumping (carried over)	1. FNQROC	Carried over
44.12	<b>Disaster preparedness. Action:</b> 1. Circulate revised 2020 version of the CoP. 2. Work with interested LGs to integrate into LDMP and planning/response workflows (carried over)	1. FNQROC	Discussion this agenda
45.6	<b>Alternatives to the herbicide glyphosate. Action:</b> Prepare discussion/options paper to guide next steps, identify opportunities and resource gaps.	1. FNQROC	1. Underway
46.1	<b>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</b> <b>Action:</b> provide any additional comments re: Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 1080 policy to LGAQ	1. ALL	1. Complete

No.	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
46.2	<b>Environmental and natural assets policy</b> <b>Action:</b> re-circulate policy collation with meeting minutes.	1. FNQROC	1. Complete
46.3	<b>Regional biosecurity prioritisation framework</b> <b>Action:</b> Councils adopt biosecurity planning framework and use in the next planned review of biosecurity plan.	1. LGs, FNQROC	1. Complete
46.7	<b>SOG representative – nominations</b> <b>Action:</b> FNQROC (Travis) to continue as State Oversight Group representative for FNQ NAMAC.	1. ALL	1. Complete

## 6. Correspondence

## 7. Business arising from minutes

**44.10 Illegal dumping and biosecurity considerations** - reported increase illegal dumping in new locations, sometimes commercial waste. Travis outlined highlighted the regional waste management strategy is now in development and will be a major piece of work for the ROC technical and working group

**Action:** Liaise with waste management group regarding future actions or resourcing under the illegal dumping program from DES and integration of biosecurity risk management measures in waste programs.

**Action:** Liaise with DTMR regarding scheduling of clean-up works on key natural asset and presentation roads (particularly during planned road closures for maintenance works).

**45.6** Discussion of current state of review of DSC glyphosate reduction plan and customer service and information requests regarding herbicide use.

**Action:** 1. In preparation for NAMAC roadside and reserve vegetation management discussion paper prepare a regional level template policy or position paper for consideration of NAMAC. 2. DSC circulate revised glyphosate reduction plan to NAMAC LGs when finalised.

**46.1 Medicines and Poisons Act implementation** – new regulations expected to go live at end of September, concerns remain for minor use permit access for fruit-based baits and supply of DAF Deed Poll and Stock books in the interim.

**Action:** seek update from LGAQ on fruit-based bait minor use permit and provision of deed poll and stock books.

### 46.2 Environmental and natural assets policy

Following on from previous discussion and collation of current regional policies Hinchinbrook is collating an overarching environmental policies/principles statement. Cassowary Coast is pursuing ECO certified destination <https://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/ecotourism-certification>

**Action:** FNQROC and HSC liaise re: overarching environmental policy/principles approach.

**8. Amazon frogbit** – regional action plan and advocacy discussion (Robby McLeod WTMA & Lucy Graham CAFNEC)

Lucy and Robby provided an overview of a meeting with concerned stakeholders regarding the outbreak of Amazon frogbit in the Barron River and tributaries held recently. The group discussed a wide range of concerns and issues and has approached NAMAC to determine the most effective course of action. The key concerns raised by the group include:

- Rapid spread and distribution along the Barron River and Mareeba area tributaries
- Potential spread west into the Mitchell catchment
- Potential spread to new locations in the Wet Tropics
- Accessibility and trade of the plant, particularly on social media
- Lack of regulation to restrict sale and sharing
- Impacts on Barron hydro station raised by Cleanco Queensland
- Potential impacts on World Heritage values in the Barron catchment
- Ecological and environmental impacts from the infestation

WTMA is acting on request from Community Consultative Committee to formally raise the issue with QLD DAF Minister and request its consideration for Category 3 regulation under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

An update on works already undertaken by local government and BQ was provided key works undertaken or in train over the past 5- 10 years include;

Local laws declaration to restrict sale and distribution

- Emergency declaration under local law in TRC and MSC
- Listing in local law in CCRC (currently with State for interest checks)
- Slated for inclusion in local law declaration in DSC, CRC, and HSC. This will be undertaken in pending review processes.
- The issue has been tabled and discussed in the LGAQ Biosecurity Act Reference Group in the context of interpretation of compliance with the ACT in waterways (jurisdiction, landholder responsibility and roles of LG and State).
- In addition, a petition (650+) signatories has been raised to Qld Parliament requesting declaration (tabled 15/06/2021) <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=3502>

Research and management communications

- Trial and registration of minor use permit for CLIPPER herbicide (Flumioxazin 15g tablet) by BQ with support for CRC

- Invasive biology research is underway at the Centre for Wet Tropics Agriculture in South Johnstone- this includes seed longevity and reproductive biology research as well as general invasive biology work
- A project developed by the FNQROC & NAMAC has been approved for inclusion in the Land Protection Fund Research Prospectus – the project will pilot an aquarium weed risk assessment process in the Wet Tropics
- A pestfact has been developed by BQ :  
[https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1572419/Amazon-frogbit-Limnobiium-laevigatum.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1572419/Amazon-frogbit-Limnobiium-laevigatum.pdf)

In addition to the regulatory considerations above a range of options and requirements for response were discussed

- Resources for management
- Coordination action and collaboration
- Prevention of spread to new catchments or locations
- Community education
- Understanding and managing impacts
- Telling the management story so far and bringing concerned community members/groups up to speed with actions in train as well as known gaps

### **Recommendations and actions**

1. The NAMAC recommends that prior to communication with Minister that a Biosecurity Response Plan be drafted in consultation between the FNQROC (NAMAC LGs), Regional BQ research staff and biosecurity officers and WTMA/CAFNEC in consultation concerned community groups and organisations.
2. FNQROC provides a template/working example of a Biosecurity Response Plan and leads the compilation of a regional Amazon frogbit plan.
3. WTMA and CAFNEC (Terrain NRM?) assist to develop the community engagement, education and response elements of the plan (within their remit/resources).
4. NAMAC makes for noting to the Board the issues and proposed course of action.

**9. Climate Resilient Alliance Project introduction – Michelle O'Loughlin, FNQROC**  
 Michelle provided an overview of the project design and deliverables. Discussion with NAMAC regarding relevant projects and initiatives in climate mitigation, adaptation and transition. The project will work in with TRC, MSC, CRC, YASC and the FNQROC to initiate shared or individual projects and establish a community of practice. The NAMAC discussed the key areas of focus for natural asset managers including.

- fire management, response and planning
- nature based solutions for implementation of CHAS and other climate response
- biosecurity readiness and adaptation
- balancing carbon market opportunities with other productive land uses
- potential applications to water security

**Action:** Michelle to provide Alliance update to next NAMAC

#### **10. Biosecurity Queensland – general update**

Update on key projects and programs underway. Cecropia field work in Silkwood utilising drone detection and testing pollen collection for DNA and phenology data.

DAF is seeking stakeholder feedback/support for African Tulip biocontrol nomination.

DAF installed red-eared slider turtle (REST) surveillance platform in Tyto Wetlands during morning tea. The platform provides is used by basking turtles and includes a trail camera to record species. The project is part of a delimitation project for REST.

**Action:** Circulate African Tulip biocontrol nomination feedback from and provide draft response as guide.

**11. Regional report card – update** - reminder to get stats and narrative back to FNQROC asap

**12. Terrain NRM – Sarah Hoyal an apology, no update provided**

**13. Taskforce update – Cook Shire Gamba grass taskforce proposal 2022.** CSC in collaboration with Cape York NRM are seeking initial support for a taskforce based in the Cooktown region close to the end of the wet season in 2022. LG's in support.

Discussion regarding field day to showcase new field based technology and tools, Cecropia in Silkwood would be an ideal location.

**Action:** 1. Cook to submit EOI for regional taskforce at or prior to November NAMAC.  
2. BQ and FNQROC liaise to develop scope field technology and innovation field day.

#### **14. Research and Land Protection Fund update**

Travis provided an overview of the research projects underway or in train.

Aleman grass herbicide and Nemo wetting agent trials begin in HSC next week.

Gamba grass field work and project wrapping up (as is the National NESP High Biomass Grass Project) – FNQROC is working with CSIRO, BQ and Cook Shire to develop management comms. and synthesis for land managers (no silver bullet unfortunately).

Technical highlights report from Invasive Plants and animals Research will be circulated soon.

**15. FNQROC – general update and Board Directed Projects**

#### **16. General Business**

AELA masterclass invitation, Thursday September 23

5-6 spaces for this free event have been made available to LG officers

#### **17. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board**

### **Barron River Amazon frogbit outbreak and proposed regional course of action**

Concerned stakeholders and representatives from community groups met recently to discuss impacts and determine appropriate response to the relatively recent spread of Amazon frogbit in the Barron basin. Frogbit is a floating aquatic weed which reproduces rapidly which has traditionally been used in the aquarium trade. From its first detection in tributaries of the Barron in the Mareeba region it has spread rapidly downstream to Kuranda and beyond.

It is causing significant environmental impacts and management headaches for electricity generation at the Barron hydroelectric power station. It is known to occur naturalised in the Cairns region has also been recently detected in a tributary of Tinaroo Falls Dam and Cassowary Coast.

Mareeba and Tablelands have made emergency declaration under Local Law, and it is slated for inclusion in local law declaration in Douglas, Cairns, and Hinchinbrook.

FNQROC and the NAMAC are working with a consortium of regional stakeholders to develop a regional biosecurity response plan to respond to the issue and make a deputation to the State/Federal Government for support.

**Action required by FNQROC Board:** Endorse the Biosecurity Response Plan (when finalised) and advocate for its resourcing.

### **18. Next meeting**

November 18 – Mareeba

With the exception of motions and explicit request to be named, this meeting operates under **Chatham House Rule:**

*Everyone present is free to use the information received, but they cannot reveal the identity or affiliation of the speaker or any other participant.*

*The Chatham House Rule allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organisation. It encourages free discussion.*