

Animal Management Technical Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	14
Meeting Name	Animal Management Technical Committee
Date	09/08/2023
Time	9:30 – 2:00
Venue	Civic Reception, Cairns
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes

Agenda

1.	Attendance Tina Martin CRC, Kylie McAllister CSC, Shane Brumby DSC, Gill Mansfield CCRC, Travis Sydes FNQROC	
2.	Apologies Robert D'Adonna MSC, Shellina McKellar TRC , Scott Bastow CCRC, Elai Senesi HVASC RSPCA – Emma, new liaison officer for RSPCA would be worth approaching to engage in committee. New vet on board with CRC. Action: ask Emma to outline new outreach role to next AMTC or teams session in between meetings McKellar TRC, Stacey Bambrick TPHU,	
3.	Guests	
4.	Acceptance of previous minutes 4.1 moved – Tina Martin 4.2 seconded - Gill Mansfield	
5.	Actions from Previous Meeting No. 13	

6.	Update from FNQROC 6.1 Board directed projects	
7.	General Business	

7.1 Regional Animal Management Strategy update

The group reviewed the Regional Animal Management Strategy. Key recommendations and edits were made live into the draft document.

Action: 1. Call made for suitable images for layout. 2. Recirculate updated draft for final review.

7.2 Domestic, urban and peri-urban cats - policy approaches, future research and collaboration with Natural Asset Management

Suggested reading

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Findings-and-Recommendations-Identifying-Best-Practice-Domestic-Cat-Management.pdf>

<https://alga.com.au/stronger-state-laws-would-help-councils-reduce-cat-impacts/>

The committee discussed cat management from feral to stray and domestic cats and a proposal to submit a proposal to the Land Protection Fund to assist to set a baseline on tropical cat populations and how to best manage cats at each stage of the continuum. Suggested research actions included camera traps and collared domestic cats as a means to research cat impacts in the tropics.

Action: Proceed with Land Protection Fund submission in consultation with NAMAC and AMTC. Synthesise impacts and current status of cats in the region. Consider inclusion economic analysis evaluation of the benefits of management actions and regulatory approaches vs education and behaviour change coupled with control tools and technology.

7.3 Legislative update - Animal Management Act review (submissions due August 24)

The committee discussed opportunities and shortcomings of the current legislation. Key points flagged included:

- Banned breeds position not useful (for local government, how could we implement this. DNA options are not valid.
- Too many opportunities for review in QCAT
- Remove discussion around the proposed declaration, go direct to declared (no other legislation approaches this way).
- Proposed declaration not consistent with other intelligence led legislation.
- Length of holding time required for impounded animals under QCAT process is unduly long.
- Cost to other ratepayers changes and risks of pass through costs to public.
- QCAT considerations are based on destruction order, not be raised within the everyday requirements of the program. Submissions were workshopped in detail.
- Reasonable persons test..... potential in test for pet ownership for repeat offenders.
- Resourcing impoundment actions and facilities.
- Currently dealt with case by case.
- Dealing with the people where the legislation applies is challenging in an operational context
- SEQ centric approaches to review are at the expense of smaller LGAs
- Engagement with ASCs has been entirely inadequate and does not consider the needs of northern Australia

Action: prepare a submission to the proposed changes in the Animal Management Legislation.

	<p>7.4 Training (standing agenda item)</p> <p>Dangerous dogs, approaching dogs Dog Force Australia, dangerous dog training proposed. Seeking numbers to bring trainer to Cairns to conduct course. Could include any officer of council who are expected to encounter dogs as a half-day session and then a more detailed session for LLOs for more detailed training on aggressive dogs.</p> <p>Guidelines for destruction of animals</p> <p>National vet shortage is likely to present a huge risk to LG operations. Flow on effects to staff. Vets are pushing back on LG requests for euthanasia due to workloads. Options for LG administration of euthanasia not straightforward as it requires dedicated vet room and storage facilities.</p> <p>Action: a. Circulate email to committee to establish numbers for training for humane destruction – firearms, lethal barb and others. b. EHOs could attend as well (for how to read and approach dogs vs LLO)</p> <p>7.5 Regional taskforce operations call for proposals (standing agenda item)</p> <p>Action: Discuss with Hope Vale at upcoming FNQROC Board meeting and sound out options for taskforce for domestic dogs</p> <p>7.6 AM Strategy discussion piece - recording, reporting and data management.</p> <p>Carried over</p> <p>7.7 Regional updates</p> <p>LGs provided a brief update of key projects and programs from around the region.</p> <p>7.8 Business arising</p> <p>7.9 General business</p> <p>Animal Management conference – registrations out now. Key offerings for the joint event include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some training options are available online • Awards will be included in the forum this year <p>Action: 1. circulate conference flyer to committee. 2. Consider applications for awards for your teams.</p>	
8.	Points for noting to the FNQROC Board	
9.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>TBA</p>	

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
14.1	Regional Animal Management Strategy update Action: 1. Call made for suitable images for layout. 2. Recirculate updated draft for final review.	FNQROC / AMTC
14.2	Domestic, urban and peri-urban cats - policy approaches, future research and collaboration with Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee Action: 1. Proceed with Land Protection Fund submission in consultation with NAMAC and AMTC. 2. Synthesise impacts and current status of cats in the region. Consider inclusion economic analysis evaluation of the benefits of management actions and regulatory approaches vs education and behaviour change coupled with control tools and technology.	1. FNQROC 2. FNQROC, AMTC, NAMAC
14.3	Animal Management Act review Action: Prepare a submission to the proposed changes in the Animal Management Legislation. (submissions due August 24)	1. FNQROC
14.4	Training Action: 1. Circulate email to committee to establish numbers for training for humane destruction – firearms, lethal barb and others. 2. EHOs could attend as well (for how to read and approach dogs vs LLO)	1. MSC 2. AMTC
14.5	Regional taskforce operations call for proposals (standing agenda item) Action: Discuss with Hope Vale at upcoming FNQROC Board meeting and sound out options for taskforce for domestic dogs	FNQROC
14.6	Animal Management conference Action: 1. circulate conference flyer to committee. 2. Consider applications for awards.	1. FNQROC. 2. AMTC