

# Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

## Meeting Details

<b>Meeting No</b>	56
<b>Meeting Name</b>	NAMAC
<b>Date</b>	December 1 2023
<b>Time</b>	9:30-2:30
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room*, level 3, Cairns Regional Council, cnr Spence and Draper Street Cairns *Please sign in at reception downstairs and take elevator to level 3 where will collect you
<b>Meeting Contacts</b>	Travis Sydes: 0448 852 732 <a href="mailto:t.sydes@fnqroc.qld.gov.au">t.sydes@fnqroc.qld.gov.au</a>

## Meeting minutes

<b>1.</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Brad Everett DSC, Sarah Hoyal Terrain NRM, Darryn Higgins CSC	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guests</b> Andrew Dennis Terrain NRM, Sonya Takau and Chris Muriata Giringun Aboriginal Corporation (9:30) Josh Dyke – LGAQ Steven Myburgh - Graduate Researcher, The University of Melbourne (12:00)	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Acceptance of previous minutes</b> moved: Jade Monda seconded: Damon Sydes	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Actions from Previous Meeting No. 55</b>	

<b>8</b>	<b>General Business</b>  <b>8.1 – First Nations National Dingo Declaration and Dingo vs Wild Dog Genetics (9:30 am)</b>  Sonya Takau and Chris Muriata from Giringun Aboriginal Corporation provided an overview on the background and purpose of the National First Nations Dingo Declaration. The declaration outlines the cultural and spiritual importance of the Dingo to first nations people as both a totem animal and an apex predator. Andrew Dennis from	
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Terrain NRM provide an overview of some of the recent science and genetic studies into Dingo in Australia. Key points for noting:

- Dingo have been in Australia for thousands of years.
- Many First Nations people have spiritual and totemic connections to Dingo; therefore, they are responsible for its safety and survival.
- First Nations consider the term wild dog is a misnomer and simply refers to Dingo, feral dog is a more appropriate term.
- Recent genetic studies indicate a much higher percentage of Dingo ancestry in 'wild dogs' suggesting less hybridisation with domestic dogs than previously accepted.
- Dingo are an apex predator and play an important role in the maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

#### **Basic request and recommendations from the declaration.**

- 1080 baiting and lethal control on public land be phased out/ceased; and that indiscriminate 1080 baiting be scaled back on private lands where possible.
- That First Nations people be included and consulted in decision relating to Dingo, particularly relating to lethal control.
- That opportunities to work with landholders and graziers to implement non-lethal approaches to management be facilitated. This could include alternative management tools such as guardian animals, stock selection and fencing.
- Sonya recommended additional resources and case studies to inform the conversation. <https://landholdersfordingoes.org/>
- A report from the forum will be released in Feb. 2024 and a more in-depth journal paper to follow.
- A working group called the Dingo Advisory Council is being established to guide the national conversation.

The NAMAC acknowledged the initiative taken by Giringun Aboriginal Corporation on the First Nations National Dingo forum and Declaration; and thanked Sonya and Chris for their deputation to the committee.

#### **Next steps**

##### **Actions:**

1. Consider collection of ear samples from deceased animals for DNA profiling to better understand local/regional population dynamics.
2. Consider alternative management trials or pilot projects in Wet Tropics regions in conjunction with First Nations and graziers/landholders.
3. Discuss options or rephrasing of wild dog management requirements within individual biosecurity plans.
4. Share contact details for First Nations contacts outside of Giringun Corporations area of representation.

#### **8.2 - Biosecurity compliance refresher course – setting of date**

Dave Green led a discussion of proposed training and dates currently set for North Queensland (5-6 March). Discussion of key needs and requirements identified:

- Need to accommodate training for new staff; as well as undertaking a refresher for staff previously trained.
- Encouraged to include local laws officers in training. Introductory session may also be relevant to managerial and director level as well as councillors.
- 2-day session to cover off on an introductory and advanced session for different staff needs.

**Actions:** 1. Collate list of participants for each LG. 2. Save the date (send date claimers) for training, 12-13 March 2024.

**8.3 - Gamba grass management implications research project (12:00 pm)** Steven Myburgh (Graduate Researcher, The University of Melbourne)

Steven provided an overview of this research project and undertook a questionnaire on the framing and context of questions for his research.

He will follow up with the committee to assist identifying potential research survey participants.

**8.4 – Regional Plan update**

Travis provided an overview of the NAMAC relevant conversation around the regional plan process.

**8.5 - Preliminary outcomes Natural Assets DM workshop (& climate resilience update)**

Maria and Travis provided an overview of the preliminary outcomes from the Natural Assets Disaster Management scenario exercise. The outcomes from the SWOT analysis have been summarised and some initial recommendations for actioning have been collected. These will be circulated for additional comment.

**Action:** 1. Circulate SWOT analysis outcomes and recommendations for comment from participants.

**8.6 - Operational and strategic updates**

Updates from around the room were provided by exception.

**8.7 – Reef Guardian Councils update**

Councillor Jeff Baines provided an update on Reef Guardian Councils

**8.8 – Funding and grants update**

**8.9 – Regional report card – update**

Travis provided an overview of proposed amendments to the regional report card for discussion. A mock up of the report card will be proved at meeting #57

**8.10 - Business Arising**

**9 Points for noting to the FNQROC Board**

10	<b>Next meeting:</b> March 1 2024, Cairns - schedule for 2024 will be released in January	
11	<b>Meeting Close</b>	

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
51.1 (45.6)	<p><b>51.1 (45.6) – Discussion regarding integrated roadside vegetation management</b></p> <p><b>Updated action:</b> Revise and expand the current Wet Tropics guide into a best practice document for broader use for local government. (2024 workplan)</p>	1. FNQROC/NAMAC
52.2	<p><b>Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Strategy – next steps</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. Complete outstanding program profiles from individual councils. 2. Collate profiles from BQ, NRM, Ranger Groups and other NGOs. 3. Engage with other relevant stakeholders (on hold)</p>	1. FNQROC/Councils 2. FNQROC 3. FNQROC/BQ/WTWP
52.3	<p><b>Amazon frogbit control/biology field day</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Field-day date to be determined (2024)</p>	1. Mareeba, BQ, FNQROC
52.7	<p><b>Training – Humane destruction of animals</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. Share the course outline. 2. Nominate officers required to attend and return so a quote can be prepared.</p> <p><b>Updated action:</b> Follow up with local supplier</p>	1. FNQROC, MSC 2. NAMAC
55.6	<p><b>Land Protection Fund Research Proposals. Panama rubber tree biosecurity risk assessment</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. develop outlines for the feral pig and feral cat research proposals and circulate to committee.</p>	1. FNQROC
56.1 (reworded from 55.2)	<p><b>First Nations Dingo Declaration and Dingo vs dog genetics recent findings and implications</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. Redefine dogs vs dingo definitions used in biosecurity response plans with outcomes of forum. 2. Consider collection of ear samples from deceased animals for DNA profiling to better understand local/regional population dynamics. 3. Consider alternative management trials or pilot projects in Wet Tropics regions in conjunction with First Nations and graziers/landholders. 4. Discuss options or rephrasing of wild dog management requirements within individual biosecurity plans. 5. Share contact details for First Nations contacts outside of Girringun Corporations area of representation.</p>	1. NAMAC 2. LGs 3. LGs 4. NAMAC 5. Terrain NRM
56.2	<p><b>Biosecurity compliance refresher training (2024)</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b> 1. Collate list of participants for each LG. 2. Save the date (send date claimers) for training, 12-13 March 2024.</p>	1. LGs 2. NAMAC

56.3	<p><b>Preliminary outcomes Natural Assets DM workshop (&amp; climate resilience update)</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. Circulate SWOT analysis outcomes and recommendations for comment from participants.</p>	1. FNQROC
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