

## Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

### Meeting Details

<b>Meeting No</b>	57
<b>Meeting Name</b>	NAMAC
<b>Date</b>	March 1 2024
<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>

### Minutes

<b>1.</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Attendance</b> Barry Herrenberg CCRC, Damon Sydes CCRC, Jade Monda CRC, Tom Cumpton CRC, Graham Wiener MSC, Matt Buckman HSC, Michael Nash HSC, Brad Everett DSC, Sarah Hoyal Terrain NRM, Darryn Higgins CSC (online: Mario De Carlo BQ, Tudor Tanase TRC, Jacqui Diggins Terrain NRM). Maria Anselmo FNQROC (Item 8.1)	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Councillor Dave Bilney TRC, Councillor Kate Milton HSC, Ken Golbey TRC, Dave Preece Cape York NRM,	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Guests</b> Item 8.1 - Jacqui Diggins, Terrain NRM, Maria Anselmo FNQROC	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Acceptance of previous minutes</b> moved: Jade Monda seconded: brad Everett	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Discussion related to business arising Previous Meeting No. 56</b>	

### 57.7

#### 52.3 Amazon frogbit herbicide field demonstration

Suitable for inclusion in the ELGBC project which has just been initiated.

#### 52.7 – local provider awaiting number for pricing

**Action:** Send final numbers to Graham for request for quote

### General Business

#### 8.1 – Disaster response – needs and actions 2024 Monsoon

#### Natural disaster preparedness project work

Jacqui Diggins from Terrain joined us to discuss Biodiversity and Natural Assets Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning project underway. Key points.

Funded by DCCEEW, the project is to be delivered by Mid 2024.

- The project focuses on Matters of National Environmental Significance
- The project scope is limited to terrestrial and freshwater species, ecosystems, and world heritage areas.
- Where we have the capacity, this project can also consider natural assets, specifically in an agricultural context which could include soils, waterways, remnant vegetation and infrastructure protecting natural assets.
- This builds on the outcomes of the November 2023 DM natural assets workshop.

**The project deliverables are as follows;**

1. Community engagement and communications
  - a) Raise the awareness of the outcomes of this project with relevant community members and stakeholders.
  - b) Identify communication and engagement activities within the plan which should be implemented as part of disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
2. Mapping of risks to biodiversity and natural assets to inform the plan.
3. Production of a plan which speaks to,
  - a) Terrain's role and capacity in preparing for and responding to the biodiversity and natural asset related impacts arising from disasters.
  - b) Identifying the risks of disasters to the region's biodiversity and natural assets.
  - c) Identifying mitigation measures which could be applied to any or all of the various stages of disaster management (planning, preparedness, response and recovery).

An upcoming workshop (March 11) will initiate the project and assist to confirm the key areas of focus and deliverables. Representatives from the FNQROC NAMAC and CRTC are encouraged to participate in the project steering committee.

Cassowary Coast are also initiating a project under Category D funding (~\$30,000) to expand on the Disaster Management Code of Practice for Natural Assets. The two projects will be designed to complement each other.

A watching brief will be maintained with the NAMAC during the life of the project.

**Action:** 1. Consider contributing to the project through participation in the project steering committee and upcoming workshop. 2. Align the outcomes and deliverables of the two projects discussed. 3. Maintain a watching brief across the two projects.

**Tropical Cycle Jasper event and recovery**

The committee discussed recent disaster events, observations and experiences.

**Environmental recovery planning**

**Positives and opportunities include:**

- Quality representation and participation in environmental recovery teams (is valued highly).
- The *Council to Council* exchange program worked very well, and was in place very quickly.
- Focused area of impact (Barron River for CRC) enabled areas not impacted to be isolated from the response process (i.e. they could be removed from most considerations).
- Inclusion of environmental response/recovery works upfront i.e. no longer having to advocate for inclusion of environmental considerations in recovery .

- Flood impacts were consistently reduced in areas where revegetation and restoration projects have reinstated native vegetation.
- Waste management could be managed for biosecurity risk through the use of designated stockpile sites.

### **Negatives and challenges**

- Lack of up-front resources to undertake essential intel operations, specifically imagery capture and analysis to establish baseline for recovery works.
- The timing of the event meant that many 'usual' resources were unavailable, LG officers often experienced being the only persons left in the room.
- Occurring over Xmas period meant some staff were stood up for extended periods (until other operatives returned from leave).
- No state (QRA) oversight or participation in local environment recovery groups (meant that local plans being developed without sighting the State level plan from the EnvFFRG).
- No imagery of use has been provided as yet. No idea what is being captured or collated. No central repository for data.
- FNQROC Disaster management code of practice not suited to audiences outside of LDMG operational context. i.e. difficult for external partners to use.
- Several key agencies did not have representatives where they were required for response operations; this entailed poor guidance for initial response crews/community members.
- Lack of expert assistance in assessing environmental damage and impacts on this scale. This includes need for environmental engineers, assessors and estimators to assist build recovery works plans.
- Coordinated environmental actions across impacted councils were not facilitated during the event. Only beginning after the initial phase of recovery entered into.
- Key environmental staff reallocated to emergency operational works.
- River Improvement Trusts lack resources (expertise) to assess the scale of the works required.
- Some best management practices developed during previous events such as in situ mulching were not possible due to the scale, volume and composition of the debris being dealt with.
- Consistent experience with the unprecedented nature of the impacts; not knowing where to start or how to respond to situations outside the realms of lived experience.
- Some known breaches of significant biosecurity risk protocols have occurred. These could have been avoided with more refined and robust risk management/communication systems in place.

### **Recommendations**

1. Develop a scope of actions and responsibilities outlining lead agencies, responsible roles and contacts.
2. Revise QRA local action plans to ensure they are up to date and well informed so they can assist inform recovery plans.
3. Refresh LDMG and LDMP annually.
4. Undertake NAMAC DM scenario planning exercise annually (early November).

5. Prepare a series of evidence-based case studies of where revetment and revegetation works assisted to reduce the impacts of the flood damage. Focus on the successful combination of engineered and natural solutions.
6. Request review of the sediment modelling for the Reef 2050 plan in light of the landscape scale impacts from Barron River north to the Endeavour.
7. Investigate the options for deployment of approaches such as Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) to guide works when deviations from accepted best management practice is required. TARPs can be used to demonstrate the relationship between conditions in: a. a normal environment; b. an abnormal environment; or c. an emergency situation

#### **Actions:**

1. Request for direct advocacy support to secure high resolution orthomosaic imagery. 2. Prioritise and seek resources for recommendations raised. 3. Contribute to local and regional disaster management review processes.

#### **8.2 - Biosecurity compliance refresher course – update**

Workshop ready to go. Attendees and venue have been confirmed for March 12-13 workshop in Cairns.

#### **8.3 - Regional Plan update - Strategic Rehabilitation Areas**

Travis provided an update on the regional plan process and recent Strategic Rehabilitation Areas workshop (for information only at this stage).

#### **8.4 – Operational and strategic updates – LGs, NRM, BQ**

##### **Cape York NRM Update**

- **Funding support confirmed for 2024 Gamba Taskforce, accommodation booked for crews**
- **Programs in development, ready for on-ground projects in 2024 dry season:**
- **Landscape Repair Program**
  - **gullies, streambank and integrated grazing land management**
  - **7 year program**
- **Eastern Forests of FNQ**
  - **Fire, weed and feral management to protect threatened species and ecosystems**
  - **3 year program**
- **Littoral Rainforest, Golden Shouldered Parrot and Spectacled Flying Fox**
  - **Survey, regional fire planning and management, weed and feral management**
  - **4 year program**
- **Sustainable Agriculture**
  - **Sustainable agriculture practices**
  - **NRM management**
  - **Biodiversity and carbon markets**
- **Development of a 10 year Regional Water Quality Strategy by June 2025**
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan**
  - **identifying and mapping biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets**
  - **Aim of reducing impacts of catastrophic events on species, ecosystems and agricultural natural capital assets**
  - **Identifying mitigation measures in advance of emergency**
  - **Expediting and targeting management activity during events**
  - Expediting and targeting recovery post events
  - By June 2024

##### **Terrain NRM**

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (as discussed in 8.1 with Jacqui Diggins)
- Many queries and stakeholder/community concerns regarding stream bank repair, stabilisation and extent of damage following TC Jasper rain events.
- Reports on the positive performance of riparian restoration sites

- Querying how sediment load targets may change as a result of landscape scale stream erosion and landslip impacts.
- Planning and designing regional project rollout will include specific investments;
  - Spectacled flying fox
  - Mountain nursery frog
  - Wet Tropics World Heritage Area values and Endangered Ecological Communities
- Cassowary Credits
  - Accounting for nature method approved
  - Planning for future pilots of methodology as previously discussed (securing resources)
- Fire
  - Planned burn guidelines review process underway
  - Engaged consultant to collate report on WT fauna's exposure to fire.
- Weeds- Stevia project (QFPI) and pond apple project work in the Murray River
- **Reef Trust – preparing program for next round of implementation**

### **Biosecurity Queensland**

- Preparing Biosecurity Compliance training workshop for North and Far North.
- Undertaking compliance activities locally for prohibited matter
- Continuing to tune application of aerial survey with drone-based cameras and imagery
- Disaster response advice and directions for TC Jasper related events

### **8.5 – Task forces for 2024 – Cooktown Endeavour Valley Gamba grass taskforce 2024**

Cook Shire and Cape York NRM will collaborate again this year on the Gamba grass taskforce. Date claimer and accommodation has been secured for 15-19 May.

### **8.6 - Reef Guardian Councils update**

Cr Jeff Baines provided an update on the Reef Guardian Councils. Most are ready to roll with program plans in place for the first round of projects. Councils have welcomed the funding and responded with a wide variety of projects. The LG Reef Councils Rescue Plan is scheduled for review.

### **8.7 – Funding submissions and grants update**

Project proposals have been lodged to the QPIF 8a round for Regional Feral Coordination roles; NRRP for control and landholder engagement for Neem tree in Croydon and Etheridge; and to QRRRF for Climate Resilience Planning and Coordination.

### **8.8 – ELGBC project outline, key dates and actions.**

The Schedule of Activities and M+E Plan have been developed and are awaiting committee sign off. Terrain NRM will work with the project and will subcontracted to deliver comms elements into the new financial year.

The NAMAC forms the advisory group for the project over its life. The project will assist host 2 regional forums and 12 on ground/local workshop events to share and discuss management approaches with landholders and land managers.

The project partners with Terrain NRM, WTMA, Wet Tropics Waterways in addition to LG's, BQ, and FNQROC. A final product of the project will be to develop a Wet Tropics Biosecurity Futures report outlining regional partnership and approaches and investment out to ten years.

Three key actions were actioned this meeting.

1. Agreement to build traditional owner and first nations connections in the first year of the project with a focus on sharing perspectives and listening.
2. Set dates for the delivery of the two regional forums.
3. Workshop the themes and topics to be covered in the regional forum series and local workshop events.

We discussed the project themes/areas to be explored in local and regional forums.

Overarching themes

*First Nations perspectives and Aquatic Biosecurity.*

Themes and topics (concepts and ideas)

- Feral pig management – technology and innovation.
- Feral cats - technology and new control techniques.
- Tilapia – awareness, ecosystem resilience and prevention.
- Dingo - partnership approaches to management.
- Land and Sea Ranger program – work planning and opportunities to grow integration and partnerships. Joint planning and operational approaches.
- African Tulip- invasive biology and control techniques.
- Hiptage - lessons and learnings from the program.
- Amazon frogbit- response plan, eDNA, sentinel sites and control technology.
- Tropical Aquatic biosecurity – emerging trends and approaches to management and behaviour change/education
- Aquatic ecosystem response and recovery

Regional outcomes

Key themes for exploration in regional forums (in addition to);

- Decision making approaches for resilience (why and for what outcome?)
- Integrating First Nations perspectives.
- Transitioning from reactive to pre-emptive.

**Actions:** 1. Circulate the Terrain NRM Traditional Owner engagement policy/guideline for review. 2. Circulate Schedule of activities and call for local workshop/biosecurity roadshow

**8.9 - Business Arising**

**Fruit based feral pig baits-** request inclusion of paw paw in available substrates in next revision of 1080 permit.

For noting: *Ficus religiosa* (Sacred fig). Observed self-seeding for the first time in the region (Douglas Shire) which indicates its symbiotic wasp (or a new pollinator) has arrived in recent years. The tree was previously not considered weed as it could not reproduce but is now naturalising away from parent trees.

<b>9</b>	<b>Points for noting to the FNQROC Board</b> 1. Request for direct advocacy support to secure high resolution orthomosaic imagery for TC Jasper recovery planning (if the issue remains unresolved)
<b>10</b>	<b>Next meeting:</b> May 28, Committee Room, Spence Street Cairns
<b>11</b>	<b>Meeting Close</b> 2:30 pm

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
<b>51.1 (45.6)</b>	<b>51.1 (45.6) – Discussion regarding integrated roadside vegetation management</b>  <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)	1. FNQROC/NAMAC
<b>52.2</b>	<b>Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Strategy – next steps</b> <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)	1. FNQROC/Councils 2. FNQROC 3. FNQROC/BQ/WTWP
<b>52.7</b>	<b>Training – Humane destruction of animals</b> <b>Action:</b> Follow up with local supplier and set date.	1. FNQROC, MSC

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
57.1	<p><b>Natural disaster preparedness project work</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> 1. Consider contributing to the project through participation in the project steering committee and upcoming workshop. 2. Align the outcomes and deliverables of the two projects discussed. 3. Maintain a watching brief across the two projects.</p>	1. LGS, NAMAC 2. NAMAC, Terrain NRM, CCRC 3. NAMAC
57.2	<p><b>TC Jasper Response – discussion and recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a scope of actions and responsibilities outlining lead agencies, responsible roles and contacts.</li> <li>2. Revise QRA local action plans to ensure they are up to date and well informed so they can assist inform recovery plans.</li> <li>3. Refresh LDMG and LDMP annually.</li> <li>4. Undertake NAMAC DM scenario planning exercise annually (early November).</li> <li>5. Prepare a series of evidence-based case studies of where revegetation and revegetation works assisted to reduce the impacts of the flood damage. Focus on the successful combination of engineered and natural solutions.</li> <li>6. Request review of the sediment modelling for the Reef 2050 plan in light of the landscape scale impacts from Barron River north to the Endeavour.</li> <li>7. Investigate the options for deployment of approaches such as Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) to guide works when deviations from accepted best management practice is required. TARPs can be used to demonstrate the relationship between conditions in: a. a normal environment; b. an abnormal environment; or c. an emergency situation</li> </ol> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request for direct advocacy support to secure high resolution orthomosaic imagery. 2. Prioritise and seek resources for recommendations raised. 3. Contribute to local and regional disaster management review processes.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Recommendations 1-7</b>  NAMAC, FNQROC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FNQROC</li> <li>2. FNQROC, NAMAC, CRTC, Terrain NRM, CY NRM</li> <li>3. LGs, Terrain NRM, CY NRM, FNQROC, NAMAC</li> </ol>
57.3	<p><b>ELGBC project action</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b> 1. Circulate the Terrain NRM Traditional Owner engagement policy/guideline for review. 2. Circulate Schedule of activities and call for local workshop/biosecurity roadshow</p>	1. FNQROC, Terrain NRM 2. FNQROC