Animal Management Technical Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	16
Meeting Name	Animal Management Technical Committee
Date	16/02/2024
Time	9:30 – 1:30
Venue	Kingsford Room, Spence Street, Cairns (or MS Teams)
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes

Minutes

1.	**Attendance** Tina Martin CRC, Danni DSC, Shane Brumby DSC, Kylie McCallister CSC, Sam Bann YASC, Victor YASC, Zitha Mosby TPHU, Stacey Bambrick TPHU, Kirsty Lamperd CCRC, Alan Lambert CCRC. (online) Bonny Cumming AMRIIC	
2.	**Apologies** Shellina McKellar TRC, Shiralee McHardie TRC, Robert D'Adonna MSC	
3.	**Guests**	

4.	**Acceptance of previous minutes**
	  4.1 moved: Tina Martin
	  4.2 seconded: Stacey Bambrick	

5.	**Actions from Previous Meeting No. 15**	

Discussion relating to actions from previous meeting

15.5 'Keep you mate safe' campaign coming soon

Discussion relating to actions arising from meeting #16.

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

7.1 Tropical Cyclone Jasper – response and recovery

The group held a general discussion about key challenges surrounding the events around TC Jasper and associated flooding. Key points were;

Temporary rehoming of dogs to assist impacted community members incurred unforeseen costs (i.e. $10,000+ to care for 5 animals).

Animals were evacuated (along with people) from Wujal Wujal to Cooktown and surrounding areas.

Roads were cut off making access impossible. DSC AM facility was cut off by flood waters during the event.

No vehicles were available to AM team in Wujal Wujal, so they undertook response and recovery actions on foot.

Staff were also personally impacted by floods. Managing personal and business needs was an additional stress during and after the event.

Council to Council support program did not include AM or Local Laws capacity.

Operational staff from AM teams were redeployed on other response activities. (including Disaster Coordinator role)

Timing of the event meant many staff and external partners/resources were not available or in communication.

Multiple organisations and Departments stepped in after the event; was sometimes difficult to understand who was doing what and why.

Lots of resources were mobilised but it was still difficult to get them to their direct point of need.

QRA recovery planning considerations do not include AM at all.

Recent disaster events have resulted in many additional and new residents in some communities; more animals and more interactions. Some AM facilities have been used for temporary housing of animals following natural disasters over the holidays.

Upgrade needs case for Cook Shire AM facility could provide an opportunity for a facility with cross-regional capacity to be built to service adjoining areas for improved disaster resilience.

AMRIIC has a range of disaster management resources available on their website which include a range of planning tools and templates with a focus on remote communities.

Recommendations:

1. Sureveilllance cameras with remote telemetry at AM facilities would be useful for monitoring animals during events (also provide additional security).
2. Circulate WALGA Animal Welfare in Disasters Resource

   https://walga.asn.au/policy-advocacy/our-policy-areas/emergency-management/animal-welfare-in-emergencies

3. Investigate resourcing requirements and shortfalls for QRA arrangements regarding animal management.

4. Map out jurisdictions/roles for management/functions related to domestic animals covered by local laws and animal management operations in local government.
5. Include regional capacity/disaster response capability across all AM facilities to accommodate animals during disaster events.

Action:

1. Draft scope for discussion paper on local and regional lessons and perspectives on AM disaster management response (link to regional DM discussion/ reporting). 2. Share link to AMRIIC Emergency Management for Companion Animals Resources to AMTC and FNQROC CRTC.

7.2 Regional AM capability, facilities and rehoming capacity issues

All but a few of the regions Animal Management Facilities are at peak capacity; rehoming organisations and facilities are in a similar situation.

Incoming animals are having to be triaged rather than directly being housed in AM facilities due to capacity.

Cairns facility housing displaced animals from flood affected shelters while repairs are underway.

Health management issues with AM facilities create additional burden on operations; prevalence of hook worm in puppies and cat flu at the moment.

Many animals are being surrendered; a range of factors at play including recent extreme weather events; financial stress and housing crisis all underpin inability for some pet owners to provide for their animals.

Puppy breeding is seen by many as a financial means; however there has been a collapse in demand for pets post-covid resulting in an over-supply.

Rehoming cats is a perennial issue due to the frequency of litters (2-4 litters of 4-6 kittens).

Desexing rates are currently too low to impact on population.

A national Vet shortage is impacting on availability and accessibility of desexing services.

Recommendations:

1. Investigate scope for regional domestic animals desexing program to monitor and deploy population management.
2. Collate case studies to inform business case for benefit:cost of desexing programs for FNQ context.
3. Undertake workforce capacity review to understand current and future demands on AM services in FNQ (and assist design future programs and investments)
4. Include investigation of how BIN requirements have done little to curb the prevalence of breeding as a fuelling over-supply.
5. Revisit AM data standard and link to census as means to monitor/inform population management.
6. Develop regionally relevant animal management population management targets to guide operations and regional strategy.

Actions:

1. Develop project brief to inform a business case for submission to FNQROC Board addressing the following elements. 1a). AM Workforce capacity review. 1b). benefit:cost analysis of regionally delivered desexing program. 1c). requirements and costings for development and delivery of a regional data AM record and reporting to monitor and

guide operations and strategies. 2. Provide advocacy request to LGAQ to investigate the delivery and short comings of Breeder Identification Number and its enforcement.

7.3 Training (standing agenda item)

Microchipping training – numbers have been supplied and course outline provided awaiting on confirmation of dates and costs.

Animal First Aid – TRC is consulting with Tablelands Veterinary Services to deliver locally. Q: is this accredited training; accredited units are available?

De-escalation training – CRC is about to undertake this training module and will provide feedback to the AMTC.

EAP and compassion fatigue – looking beyond mental and emotional support services provided by EAP - Compassion fatigue is a very real issue for local laws staff to manage. Currently many independently seek individual support the EAP however the benefits of team derived support would be useful to have in the range of options.

AMW training in Cert IV in Animal Management - TPHU advised 75% of participants through the certification and due to finish in mid-year.

Action: 1. Clarify accreditation of animal first aid training on offer and circulate links to other materials/services. 2. Include compassion fatigue management in workforce capability review element of the project brief in 7.2 (xx)

7.4 Regional taskforce operations call for proposals (standing agenda item)

7.5 Regional updates

Points made in addition to those in 7.1 and 7.2 include:

Tropical diseases are more prevalent this season, particularly skin and fungal infections and diseases in dogs.

CCRC has added warrants to their compliance toolbox.

Wandering horses a major concern for Yarrabah.

TPHU will soon be working with individual communities to develop local plans rather than state level plans.

Cairns will have first versions of the 'Look out for your mate" media campaign ready for comment in the coming months. Similar arrangements for shared airtime will be negotiated closer to the release.

AMRIIC has a range of disaster management resources available on their website

Actions: 1. Include overview on functions of warrants, procedures and templates at next meeting

7.6 Animal Management Strategy update

This meetings discussion was relevant to delivery of these actions from the AMS.

2.2 Undertake a workforce capability assessment for LLO and AMW.

3.9 Map out requirements/gaps/opportunities through a service delivery model.

3.10 Workshop animal management disaster preparedness, policy and procedure with LDMG to scope readiness and key actions/options.

		3.3. Work with WHS to map out required mental health/support investment. 4.1 Making better use of census survey and audits to inform how we might improve or transform our approach to management – baselines and trends requirements for LLOs. **7.7 Business arising** (addressed in 7.2)
8.		**Points for noting to the FNQROC Board** A Project Brief outlined in agenda item 7.2 when endorsed by AMTC
9.		**Next meeting** June 11, Cairns

Actions arising:

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
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
15.4	**AM Strategy discussion piece - recording, reporting and data management** **Actions:** 1). Investigate options for progressing an animal management workforce capability review (including systems and process mapping)- AM Strategy action 2.2. 2). Undertake process mapping of both front and back end of data collection system – customer request through to operations and planning. 3). Prepare proposal to undertake AM workforce capability review.	1. AMTC, FNQROC 2. AMTC (external project) 3. AMTC, FNQROC
15.5	**CRC – keep your mate safe TV campaign** **Action:** 1. Initiate invitation for co-contribution for airtime to share animal management adverts.	1. CRC
16.1	**Tropical Cyclone Jasper – response and recovery Regional Animal** **Action:** 1. Draft scope for discussion paper on local and regional lessons and perspectives on AM disaster management response (link to regional DM discussion/ reporting). 2. Share link to AMRIIC Emergency Management for Companion Animals Resources to AMTC and FNQROC CRTC.	1. FNQROC 2. FNQROC
16.2	**Regional AM capability, facilities and rehoming capacity issues** **Actions:** 1. Develop project brief to inform a business case for submission to FNQROC Board addressing the following elements. 1a). AM Workforce capacity review. 1b). benefit:cost analysis of regionally delivered desexing program. 1c). requirements and costings for development and delivery of a regional data AM record and reporting to monitor and guide operations and strategies. 2. Provide advocacy request to LGAQ to investigate the delivery and short comings of Breeder Identification Number and its enforcement.	1. FNQROC and CCRC 2. FNQROC

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
16.3	**Adding warrants to the compliance toolbox** **Actions:** 1. Include overview on functions of warrants, procedures and templates at next meeting	1.