Animal Management Technical Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	19
Meeting Name	Animal Management Technical Committee
Date	06/12/2024
Time	9:30 – 2:00
Venue	Committee Room, Spence Street, Cairns (or MS Teams) Sign in at reception downstairs then make your way to level 3
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes

Agenda

1.	**Attendance** Tamarah Moore LGAQ, Matt Gardiner CCRC, Bonny Cumming AMRRIC, Kirsty Lamperd CCRC, Tina Lawson CRC, Benn Washington MSC, Peter King RSPCA Shellina McKellar TRC, Travis Sydes FNQROC	
2.	**Apologies** Stacey Bambrick TPHU, Rudi Pretzler LGAQ	
3.	**Guests** Belinda Tucker – DPI (Jared King, Tony Tatkovich, Joe Armourist, Lana Kylie)	
4.	**Acceptance of previous minutes** 4.1 moved: Shellina McKellar 4.2 seconded: Kirsty Lamperd	
5.	**Actions from Previous Meeting No. 18**	

Discussion relating to actions arising from meeting #18

6.	**Update from FNQROC** 6.1 Board directed projects	
7.	**General Business** 1. **Update on outcomes of regional cat management workshop** Travis provided an overview of the outcomes of the cat management workshop held on November 8. Summary is in preparation. 38 participants in workshop with 6 external presenters and two observers. Key take away messages:	

- Cat definitions of owned (AM Act) vs unowned (Biosecurity Act) offer the best alignment to legislation.
- Desexing programs are essential to any form of owned cat management.
- The region could act quite quickly in the urban and peri-urban unowned cat space, management in wilderness areas more complex to deliver due to bait shyness/complex control tools.
- Socially oriented programs essential to success of urban and peri urban management (owned cats)
- Clear definitions and workflows upfront (before projects are initiated) or essential to success.

Action: 1. Circulate the workshop proceedings/summary when collated. 2. Consider altering definition of 'feral cat' in biosecurity plans to 'unowned cats' to align with definition under the Biosecurity Act.

2. **Development of project plan for AM capability review and data management**

Based on the discussion at meeting #18 a draft project plan has been developed and circulated for comment. The plan targets workforce capability, future business needs alongside data collection and management.

3. **Outcomes of regional disaster management scenario workshop**

Cairns and Cassowary Coast joined in the 2024 regional disaster management workshop for Animal Management hosted by FNQROC. The exercises pressure test teams in natural disaster management situations where they work in an interactive team environment to respond to an unfolding event.

At the conclusion of each scenario a debrief and SWOT analysis was used to to map out weak spots and strengths in councils' systems and identify improvements which can be made in upcoming season and annual workplans.

Key takeaways for this year were deploying remote communications technology to maintain data connectivity; and planning for how to better manage community expectations during and after disasters through clearer communication. The reliance on the capacity of the Cairns AMF was highlighted as a vulnerability. i.e. – in the event of an evacuation order on the Cairns AMF there would be significant challenges housing animals.

4. **HPAI H5n1 update**

Travis provided a brief update on the HPAI situation and how it could potentially impact the region. The following update is compiled from the local government situation briefing provided by QDAF/QDPI. A HPAI outbreak was also included in the recent animal management disaster management workshop.

High pathogenicity avian influenza update for local government

The committee dialled into the statewide HPAI briefing for local government during the lunch break. Key take home messages included:
- There are very few landfills in the Wet Tropics coastal region, the expectation that LG's can manage carcass disposal through existing facilities is onerous.
- H1N5 is most likely to have significant impacts on wild bird populations. LGs are likely to be drawn into this response due to proximity to towns and communities.

- The impact is likely to be significant for many smaller councils who may have capacity to respond with existing resources.
- There are many preparations taking place in the background at a state and national scale. Potentially impacted industry has also been engaged e.g. poultry farms.
- Any State-led program is likely to over-ride any level of local planning and action. It is likely LG's will receive directions rather than lead any on ground response.
- Mammals and wildlife other than birds is likely to be susceptible.
- A watching brief will be maintained until an event occurs.

5. **Stronger Dog Laws: Safer Communities project –**

Belinda Tucker and team (Jared King, Lana Kylie, Tony Tatkovich, Joe Armourist) provided the committee with an update on the program and implementation. Key points addressed include:

- Department has been renamed Dept. Primary Industries (DPI).
- AMCDA updates rollout
  - **Enforcement guidelines** in place since July 2024
  - **Roles and responsibilities guideline** will be released in early 2025.
  - The R&R guideline evokes QPS involvement in cases with death as an outcome. Note this is a guideline, not regulation.
  - **Destruction orders guideline** is in preparation. This will assist LG's in the decision making when responding to dangerous dogs.
  - **Local government toolkit** – the toolkit is being constructed as a central repository of AMCDA related materials relating to the SDLSC provisions and implementation.
  - Keep an eye on the 'what's new' tab in the toolkit and make use of the feedback forms available to assist fine tune.
  - Training and communications materials will roll out early 2025.
  - Regulated dog registry – LG's are encouraged to make use of the registry.
- Staff and team resources
  - Finalising the **Animal Management in First Nations Communities** guide.
  - **Investigators** now recruited and on board until June 2028.
  - Assistance from investigators will primarily be provided virtually but may be in person as the situation and logistic allow.
  - Focus of investigations team will be instances of GBH (not for other levels of attack).
  - Investigators will be present in person to assist in cases involving a death.
  - **Training** DPI's Senior Training Officer Lana Kylie developing training materials based on the AMCDA implementation and feedback from surveys. This approach taken will include - a needs analysis; delivery and customisation of training tools; review and continuous improvement.
  - Materials in development include: animations and scenarios for typical interpretation of the Act; and an **Investigators Manual** with a focus on interview planning and guidance.
  - Training material will be deliver face to face and via digital resources.
  - General advice can be accessed via the program contact email: catsanddogs@daf.qld.gov.au
  - Now the key post-election changes are enacted the **Taskforce** and **Technical Working Group** will resume.

Action: 1. circulate training needs analysis survey and encourage feedback to inform the suite of training tools. 2. Follow up supporting materials and provide

feedback to develop policy guidance on best practice for internal review processes and governance support for AM (LGAQ, LGs, ROCs).

6. **Training (standing agenda item) -** no priority updates

7. **Regional taskforce operations call for proposals (standing agenda item) -** no priority updates

8. **Regional updates**
   Update discussion of implementation from around the room
   The committee provided updates on key programs by exception from around the region.

9. **Regional submission to Land Protection Fund** –A research proposal into regarding the impacts and management options in the Wet Tropics in preparation following the cat management workshop.

Action: 1. develop proposal fundamentals with QDPI and QPWS prior to engaging AMRRIC, and RSPCA in submission. 2. Forward a copy of the cat management workshop outcomes to NAILSMA for information (and investigate future engagement opportunities).

LGAQ update:

Tamarah Waugh, - Senior Policy Officer, Public Health and Environment. Tamarah provided an update on the key policy positions and workplan for 2025 derived from the endorsed motions to the LGAQ Annual Conference. In no order these include:

- Stronger penalties for non-registration
- Improvements in QCAT process
- Centralised microchip data base
- Body worn cameras
- Desexing and enclosure provisions for cats
- Repeat offender prohibitions and restrictions
- BIN process and breeders

RSPCA update

Peter King- Head of Local Government and Community Relations

Peter provided an update on the People and Pets project rolling out in various locations across the state including Cairns. The project is targeting communities with low socioeconomic ability to manage pets by providing direct assistance with care, veterinarian services and other support. The key issues being addressed are overpopulation and animal welfare. The project employs a Community Liaison Officer who works directly with Cairns Council. To date the project has assisted 300 families and over 428 animals.

Action: 1. incorporate outcomes from project into benefit:cost analysis and business case to demonstrate capacity of socially literate programs to address t he underlying causes of animal welfare issues. 2. Liaise with RSPCA and AMRRIC to partner with the AMTC to deliver CBA project as a matter of priority.

AMRRIC update
Bonny Cumming – Head of innovation and strategy
Bonny provided an update and overview on key projects and programs underway in AMRRIC. The committee was given a tour of the companion animal emergency management resources available on the AMRRIC website
https://www.amrric.org/emergency-management/

	Bonny also highlighted the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience has just released the Planning for Animals Handbook	
8.	**Points for noting to the FNQROC Board**	
9.	**Next meeting** AMTC # 20 - Online meeting via MS Teams – 27/02/2024 (facilitated by Tina Martin) AMTC #21 – Friday 18/04/2025, Cairns, Committee Room	

Actions arising from meeting #19

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 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
18.1 (superseding Items 16.2 and 17.3)	**Regional AM Capability Review and Social and economic determinants of animal management outcomes** **Action:** 1. Amend the project outline and circulate to AMTC for final feedback. 2. Provide examples of relevant case studies and program approaches to inform the business case.	1. FNQROC 2. AMTC
18.2	**High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza** **Action:** share link to current information https://www.outbreak.gov.au/current-outbreaks/avian-influenza	1. FNQROC
19.1	**Wet Tropics Cat Management Workshop** **Action:** 1. Circulate the workshop proceedings/summary when collated. 2. Consider altering definition of 'feral cat' in biosecurity plans to 'unowned cats' to align with definition under the Biosecurity Act.	1. FNQROC 2. AMTC/ NAMAC

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
19.2	**Stronger Dog Laws: Safer Communities (SDLSC) update** **Action:** 1. circulate training needs analysis survey and encourage feedback to inform the suite of training tools. 2. Follow up supporting materials and provide feedback to develop policy guidance on best practice for internal review processes and governance support for AM (LGAQ, LGs, ROCs).	1. AMTC 2. AMTC
19.3	**Cat management research proposal - Regional submission to Land Protection Fund** **Action:** 1. develop proposal fundamentals with QDPI and QPWS prior to engaging AMRRIC, and RSPCA in submission. 2. Forward a copy of the cat management workshop outcomes to NAILSMA for information (and investigate future engagement opportunities).	1.FNQROC 2. FNQROC
19.4	**People and Pets project** **Action:** 1. incorporate outcomes from project into benefit:cost analysis and business case to demonstrate capacity of socially literate programs to address the underlying causes of animal welfare issues. 2. Liaise with RSPCA and AMRRIC to partner with the AMTC to deliver CBA project as a matter of priority	1. AMTC 2. FNQROC / AMTC