

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	60
Meeting Name	NAMAC
Date	November 19 2024
Time	9:30-2:30
Venue	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council Sign in at reception
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes : 0448 852 732 t.sydes@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

Minutes

1. Attendance	Damon Sydes CCRC, Rowan Ward CCRC, Cr Jeff Baines CCRC, Tudor Tanase TRC, Dave Green BQ, Dave Preece CY NRM, Tom Crumpton CRC, Jade Monda CRC, Lewis DeFranciscis CRC, Brad Everett DSC, Jess Conroy DSC, Michael Nash HSC, Matt Buckman HSC, Graham Wienert MSC, Ken Golbey TRC.	
2. Apologies	Cr Maree Baade TRC, Michael Graham BQ, Cr Kate Milton HSC, Darryn Higgins CSC	
3. Guests	10:00-10:30 - Kirsten Phillips, Biosecurity Queensland	
4. Acceptance of previous minutes	4.1 Brad Everett 4.2 Lewis DeFranciscis	
5. Actions from Previous Meeting No. 59		

Discussion regarding actions from meeting #59

Correction: Michael Nash and Matthew Buckman were apologies for meeting #59

6. Update from FNQROC	
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8.1 Board directed projects

7. General Business

7.1 Local Government Readiness Response Training - Potential Dates, Kirsten Phillips, QDAF – 10:00 am

Kirsten provided the group with an overview of BQ's all hazards sub-plans approach to biosecurity risk management and response. The Dept is preparing a range of materials for industry and LG in preparation for likely response scenarios – e.g. Asian Swine Flu, H1N5.

The purpose of the project is to enhance LG biosecurity readiness. The intention is to deliver this through face to face sessions in the regions in 2025.

Key points:

- A good example is the ASF response plan
- Workshopped with industry and LG
- Looking to align with regional gatherings (ROC meetings etc.)
- High level briefing to Mayors and executive
- Operational training and overview those who would be involved in a response.
- Operational for LG might include waster management, community engagement, customer service, disaster management, biosecurity team.
- Examples of scenarios would include situations like Panama TR4, Asian Swine Flu, Avian influenza, Khapra Beetle.
- DDMG's have been briefed on all hazards approach.

Regional workshops in planning for early 2025. These would be capped at around 35 participants.

Action: 1. share dates for upcoming board and committee meeting dates. 2. Liaise re: scheduling for Feb-Mar 2025.

7.2 ELGBC project - Cat management workshop summary

Cat management workshop. 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.
- 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.

ELGBC biosecurity roadshow rollout

Discussion around the hosting of events within LG's. So far Mareeba and Cassowary Coast have hosted events.

- The Mareeba event delivered a practical demonstration of aquatic herbicide for the management of Amazon frogbit and other aquatic weeds. It followed on from the shires PMAC meeting and was well attended.
- Cassowary Coast hosted two events which were focused on community and stakeholder engagement around the revised Cassowary Coast Biosecurity Plan. The turn out to the events was not as popular as anticipated.
- Cairns Regional Council had also planned an event to showcase key biosecurity issues in the revision of the biosecurity plan. The event was postponed due to a low level of interest.

The committee discussed the ins and outs of the approach taken. It was agreed trying to bring an audience to a biosecurity event was a challenge. An alternative approach recommended is to take pre-prepared materials and collateral to existing events planned by other groups. These could include ranger forums, industry events, or other social gatherings and events where an audience is already established.

Action: 3. Review the approach (and template) and recommend alternative delivery means to achieve the desired increase in participation and understanding in biosecurity issues. 4. Identify a series of regionally significant issues relevant to individual councils expertise which are best presented via a collateral approach.

7.3 High pathogenicity avian influenza update for local government

(12:00 – 1:00 pm) lunch session [Join event](#)

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.

	<p>7.4 WoNS nominations – Siam weed, Amazon frogbit</p> <p>7.5 Feral pig disposal – issues paper (attached)</p> <p>7.6 Gamba grass taskforce – 28 April- 2 May. 2025</p> <p>David Preece provided an overview of the operational plan and outcomes from previous taskforce operations. Cook Shire Council will be teaming up with Cape York NRM to deliver a taskforce in April/May 2025.</p> <p>Action: Mark a date saver in diaries for the week of April 28-May 2.</p> <p>7.7 Hosting arrangement for regional natural assets risk register</p> <p>The natural assets risk register would ideally be a versioned document housed on an FNQROC portal for easy access to councils; but the register should be housed and used operationally in within each LG's LDMG's Health and Environment Sub- plan so it is accessible during a disaster preparation and response scenario.</p> <p>7.8 Biosecurity Queensland update</p> <p>Dave Green provided an update on the key operational and strategic work of the regional BQ team.</p> <p>7.9 Terrain NRM update – no update provided</p> <p>7.10 Cape York NRM update – operational funding is back online, and projects are either being rolled out or in development. Continued focus on fire management, hymenachne and feral pigs. A new approach to whole of population feral pig management is about to be trialled in the Starcke.</p> <p>Action: 1.consider approach available to undertake review or writing of regional Gamba grass management strategy</p> <p>7.11 FNQROC update (long service leave arrangements)</p> <p>Travis will be on leave until April 1, 2025. Recommended meeting #61 is online and for information sharing. A 'volunteer' convener will chair the meeting on MS Teams.</p> <p>7.12 LPF research projects update</p> <p>Feral pig project proposal no longer considered current. The additional of paw paw to the fruit-based baits permit has been raised and should be actioned within the next review.</p> <p>The outcomes from the regional cat management workshop will include recommendations on key research questions and queries which will inform an application to the land protection fund.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Incoming - re: Kewarra Beach dingo management (will be tabled at meeting)</p>	

	<p>An incoming request for attention to the dingo management situation at Kewarra Beach was raised for discussion. Cairns provided an overview of the approaches and challenges in the peri-urban context. FNQROC provided an overview of their response to the committee. The situation was of interest and relevant to all councils. Future developments and management learnings will be discussed in due course.</p>	
9.	<p>Points for noting to the FNQROC Board</p> <p><i>A recent ruling by DESI on Cairns Regional Council disposal of carcasses of feral pigs, roadkill, and other animals has found that council is in breach of waste regulation when using the established disposal process. As a result, council is now incurring significant costs to store, then transport, animal carcasses to Springmount WMF. Cairns Regional Council is the subject of the DESI finding, but it also impacts Douglas Shires feral pig management program (as well as other private and public programs across the region).</i></p> <p><i>A solution is being sought while the current options are considered or actioned.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maintain a watching brief on the situation in Cairns Regional Council -(ongoing)</i> <i>Raise with the FNQROC Waste Management Technical Committee - (underway).</i> <i>Provide update to LGAQ and National Feral Pig Coordinator - (complete).</i> <i>Raise issue with the Departments prior to raising to relevant Minister/s requesting DESI develop a suitable solution with QDAF. (Underway via LGAQ).</i> <p><i>NAMAC has prepared an issues paper: Feral pig (and other carcass) disposal issues paper, FNQROC NAMAC – October 2024</i></p>	
10.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>#61 – Feb 28 - 1 hour online teams meeting for information sharing</p> <p>#62 – Friday April 4, Cairns</p>	
11.	<p>Meeting Close</p> <p>2:30 pm</p>	

Actions arising from meeting #60

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
51.1 (45.6)	<p>51.1 (45.6) – Discussion regarding integrated roadside vegetation management</p> <p>Updated action: 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
59.2	<p>Amendments Biosecurity Act 2014</p> <p>Action: circulate notes and guidance on legislative amendments.</p>	BQ

60.1	<p>Local government readiness response training Action: 1. share dates for upcoming board and committee meeting dates. 2. Liaise re: scheduling for Feb-Mar 2025.</p>	<p>1. FNQROC. 2. FNQROC</p>
60.2	<p>ELGBC project and 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 . 3. Review the approach (and template) and recommend alternative delivery means to achieve the desired increase in participation and understanding in biosecurity issues. 4. Identify a series of regionally significant issues relevant to individual councils expertise which are best presented via a collateral approach.</p>	<p>1. FNQROC 2. NAMAC 3. FNQROC, NAMAC 4. FNQROC, NAMAC</p>
60.3	<p>Regional Gamba grass management strategy Action: 1.Consider approach available to undertake review or writing of regional Gamba grass management strategy and report back to committee.</p>	<p>1. Cape York NRM, FNQROC, NAMAC</p>