

Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No.	61
Meeting Name	Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)
Date	28 February 2025
Time	9.30am – 11.00am
Venue	Online
Meeting Contacts	Maria Anselmo: 0491 960 940 maria.anselmo@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

Meeting Minutes

1.	Acknowledgment of Country
2.	Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jade Monda, Lewis Defranciscis and Tom Crumpton – Carins Regional Council Councillor Kate Milton and Matthew Buckman – Hinchinbrook Shire Council Councillor Maree Baade and Tudor Tanase – Tablelands Regional Council Michael Graham – Biosecurity QLD Rowan Ward – Cassowary Coast Regional Council Tony O'Malley – Terrain NRM
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken Golbey - Tablelands Regional Council David Preece – Cape York NRM Jess Conroy – Douglas Shire Council Jeff Baines – Cassowary Coast Regional Council Keely Macmillan – Mareeba Shire Council Travis Sydes - FNQROC
4.	Guests
5.	Acceptance of previous minutes <p>5.1 Moved: Jade Monda Cairns Regional Council</p> <p>5.2 Seconded: Rowan Ward Cassowary Coast Regional Council</p>
6.	Actions from previous Meeting no.60 <p>Summary of Key Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant progress has been made in disaster management for natural assets. To improve accessibility and avoid duplication, it was recommended that an inventory of existing resources be developed. Action: Create an inventory of disaster management resources for natural assets. Discussions were held on cat management, including potential neutering programs and collaboration with Council's Local Laws officers to explore viable options. <p>Gamba Grass Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions on Gamba Grass in the Upper Herbert catchment.
7.	Round Table Updates

Members shared updates on activities and business arising. Below are key summaries from the discussions.

- Changes to waste disposal continue to have an impact on operations for feral animal management.
- CCRC Council approved Biosecurity Plan with surveillance and prevention control program, been liaising with Local Laws to introduce new species.
- CCRC have taken a position to no longer recognise Dingos as wild dogs and therefore does not support the lethal control of dingoes. Noting Councils in the region are experiencing challenges with managing dingo and human interactions.
- CCRC is working with First Nations and Agricultural agencies to deliver biosecurity initiatives.

Post-disaster (rain & flooding) impacts

- For Hinchinbrook Shire Council - there was a considerable loss of trees in revegetation sites from recent flooding impacts; two-year-old revegetation sites lost over 3,000 trees and over 50% loss of tube stock in one-year-old revegetation sites.
- Revegetation works were delayed in Tablelands Regional Council due to heavy rainfall events.
- Biosecurity Queensland staff have been assisting with flood recovery through manning of recovery hubs.

Question Raised from Cr. Kate Milton, Hinchinbrook Shire Council - **Is there an opportunity for FNQROC to assist with lobbying for funding for a wash down bay to assist with Disaster Recovery efforts?**

- Discussions about a mobile wash down facility that can be accessed by Councils across the region. Suggestion to table at upcoming disaster preparedness forums and highlight benefits to the region for having portable wash down facilities in a region that experiences disaster.
- Tablelands Regional Council is investigating options to upgrade existing wash down bays.

Feral Pig Management

- TRC: New smart feral pig traps are operational, moving to community engagement and education to implement these traps.
- Implementation of feral pig management initiatives in Cassowary Coast Regional and Hinchinbrook Shire Councils is delayed due to impacts from recent flooding events.

Upcoming Events

- Enhancing Biosecurity Preparedness workshops for local government; 16th April 2025.
- Regarding the second ELGBC - Invitation for NAMAC Members to propose a topic/theme.
- Littoral rainforest in the Wet Tropics bioregion: Friday 21st March 10 am - 2.15 pm.
- Invasive grasses forum being hosted in Malanda 2 & 3 April
- LGAQ NRM Forum hosted in Atherton on the 18th of June.

Forest Resilience Project funded by the Australian government delivered by Terrian NRM.

Working on 6 ecosystems in the region, four are listed as threatened ecological communities under national environmental legislation plus two are identified by WTMA Scientific Advisory committee as the top two ecosystems in the eastern forest of FNQ priority place, high land rainforest and Wet sclerophyll forests. Terrain have mapped these ecosystems, terrain have funding for certain activities within those ecosystems including weeds, pests, fire, fencing, revegetation agreement, particularly through partnership programs. We are looking at what are the high values, threats and priority actions in those areas, we go through this in workshops, which has been done for several ecosystems and we have a Littoral Rainforest workshop coming up next month, and the process during the workshop people can develop projects for funding, we are looking at funding a dozen

	<p>proposal received which range from \$20,000 to \$200,000. Projects can be for one activity across multiple ecosystems or multiple activities in one ecosystem. This presents as an opportunity for Local Councils to collaborate on biosecurity and pest management projects.</p> <p>Biosecurity Eradication Programs – Biosecurity QLD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good news: after successful eradication initiatives, about 11 species have been moved to prevention. In the Wet Tropics, there have been a number of species that are showing no sign of reproduction events. - A letter to landholders in the Tablelands and Mareeba will be sent because this year, Biosecurity Qld will conduct a whole-of-property surveillance. - Looking into ways to surveillance over private property, which will reduce surveillance time in residential areas. - Working on developing an AI solutions hub internally; atm we manually review imagery and then transform imagery for landholders to use to as land management. The AI will reduce 3 months so work to 3 days.
8.	<p>Points for noting to FNQROC Board</p> <p>The Natural Asset Management Committee note the ongoing issues with disposing waste material, as there are no local options and no exceptions for feral pigs; this is now directly impacting other projects.</p>
9.	Next meetings
10.	Meeting closed

Actions

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 work plan)</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</p> <p>Action: 1, sharing dates for upcoming board and committee meeting dates. 2 Liaise re: scheduling for Feb-Mar 2025.</p>	<p>1. FNQROC</p> <p>2. FNQROC</p>
60.2	<p>ELGBC project and Cat Management Workshop</p> <p>Action: 1. Circulate the workshop proceedings/summary when collated. 2. Consider altering the definition of 'feral cat' in biosecurity plans to 'unowned cats' to align with the 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</p> <p>2. NAMAC</p> <p>3. FNQROC, NAMAC</p> <p>4. FNQROC, NAMAC</p>

60.3	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 the committee.	1. Cape York NRM, FNQROC, NAMAC
61.1	Create an inventory of resources regarding disaster management for natural assets.	

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