

Animal Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No.	20
Meeting Name	Animal Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)
Date	27 February 2025
Time	9.30am – 11.30am
Venue	Online
Meeting Contacts	Maria Anselmo: 0491 960 940 maria.anselmo@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

Minutes

2.	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Tina Martin – Cairns Regional Council, Peter King – RSPCA QLD, Shellina McKellar and Michelle Taylor – Tablelands Regional Council, David Tuxworth – Douglas Shire Council, Kirsty Lamperd and Matt Gardiner – Cassowary Coast Regional Council.</p>
3.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kylie McAllister – Cook Shire Council
4.	<p>Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
5.	<p>Acceptance of previous minutes</p> <p>5.1 Moved: Shellina McKellar</p> <p>5.2 Seconded: Matt Gardiner</p>
6.	<p>Actions from previous Meeting no.19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 14.2 completed. Carry-over actions from meeting no.19 to meeting no.21.
7.	<p>7.1 Round Table Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates were provided around the room. <p>7.2 Training – Proposal for a Regional Training Package</p> <p>Discussion on training packages for local law and animal management officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassowary Coast is seeking resources to develop training programs for local law officers. Given the transfer of local law officers across councils, a regional training package would provide consistency and efficiency. Identified gaps in training, particularly in animal management. Existing training resources from DAF are useful but specific to situations like dog attacks; a broader, more practical, and locally tailored program is needed. General support from members for the development of a regional training package. <p>7.3 De-sexing Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassowary Coast is reviewing local laws to introduce compulsory desexing, with exceptions for registered breeders. Councils that have implemented free desexing programs reported positive outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Douglas Shire Council’s program received approval from the local community and has led to a decrease in dogs coming out of targeted communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cairns Regional Council highlighted the animal and human health risks of high dog population density. Desexing programs help mitigate these risks and reduce the demand for council resources. ○ Collaboration with police and after-school programs in high-density housing areas has facilitated identifying animals in need of desexing. For example, during a patrol with police, officers found three female dogs with 20 puppies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory desexing is crucial as simply removing dogs results in replacements that are not desexed, perpetuating the issue. Supporting responsible pet ownership reduces repeat interventions, saving council resources. <p>Recommendation: The AMTC recommends Board support for desexing programs to enhance animal and community health management.</p> <p>7.4 Cat Adoption Day Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent cat adoption day resulted in 33 cats being adopted within four hours. • Many animals were rehomed before the event due to pre-event promotion, creating space for more intakes. • Interest was expressed in expanding these events to include additional councils. CCRC is keen to participate and can collaborate with privately operated shelters. • CCRC currently relocates cats to Cairns-based facilities and is open to further collaboration. Councils interested in joining similar initiatives are encouraged to express interest. <p>7.5 Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Million Paws Walk (Sunday, 25 May): Invitation for councils to set up education stalls at this major RSPCA fundraising event. Expected attendance: 1,000+ people. Funds raised remain within the region. Councils to notify Peter if participating. • Cairns Regional Council Dog Adoption Day (August): Event details to be shared closer to the date, open invitation for other Councils to join. <p>Other Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with inadequate fencing in housing areas contribute significantly to animal management challenges. • Collaboration with a local buy-back shop is underway to donate materials for fence repairs, helping prevent roaming dogs. • While not strictly a council responsibility, assisting with fencing solutions helps reduce workloads and repeat interventions. • Approximately 80% of animal management issues stem from housing-related concerns. • Recent dog-on-dog attacks occurring across the region. • Responsible Pet Education – engaging youth to record messages for local radio.
8.	<p>Points for noting to FNQROC Board</p> <p>The Animal Management Technical Committee has identified a high density of dogs in densely populated housing areas. A recent example in Cairns found three female dogs with 20 puppies each in a single cul-de-sac. These conditions pose significant health risks to animals and residents. Desexing programs have proven successful in reducing call-outs and have strong community support. To mitigate risks and ease strain on staff resources, the committee requests the FNQROC Board acknowledge the importance of supporting desexing programs region-wide.</p>
9.	<p>Next meetings</p>
10.	<p>Meeting closed at 10.27am</p> <p>Meeting minutes prepared by Maria-Helena Anselmo from Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.</p>

Actions

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
14.2	<p>Domestic, urban and peri-urban cats – policy approaches, future research and collaboration with Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee</p> <p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FNQROC 2. FNQROC, AMTC, NAMAC
18.1 (superseding Items 16.2 and 17.3)	<p>Regional AM Capability Review and Social and economic determinants of animal management outcomes</p> <p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FNQROC 2. AMTC
18.2	<p>High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza</p> <p>Action: share link to current information</p> <p>https://www.outbreak.gov.au/current-outbreaks/avian-influenza</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FNQROC
19.1	<p>Wet Tropics Cat Management Workshop</p> <p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FNQROC 2. AMTC/ NAMAC

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19.2	<p>Stronger Dog Laws: Safer Communities (SDLSC) update</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>1. AMTC 2. AMTC</p>
19.3	<p>Cat management research proposal - Regional submission to Land Protection Fund</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>1.FNQROC 2. FNQROC</p>
19.4	<p>People and Pets project</p> <p>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</p>	<p>1. AMTC 2. FNQROC / AMTC</p>