

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	63
Meeting Name	NAMAC
Date	July 2025
Time	9:30-2:30
Venue	Kingsford Room*, level 3, Cairns Regional Council, cnr Spence and Draper Street Cairns *Please sign in at reception downstairs and take elevator to level 3 where will collect you
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes: 0448 852 732 t.sydes@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

Minutes

1.	Acknowledgement of Country	
2.	Attendance Darryn Higgins CSC, Jess Conroy DSC, Lewis De Franciscis CRC, Jade Monda CRC, Matt Buckman HSC, Michael Anderson CCRC, Ken Golbey TRC, Cr Kate Milton HSC, Cr Jeff Baines CCRC, Rowan Ward CCRC, Michael Graham BQ, Dave Preece CYNRM, Scott Morrison GSNRM, Ariel Woods BQ, Graham Wienert MSC, Cr Ross Cardillo	
3.	Apologies Cr Maree Baade TRC, Jacqui Diggins Terrain NRM, Tudor Tanase TRC, Christine Wolf TRC	
4.	Guests Benjamin Rhodes, Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Biosecurity Queensland) and coordinator for Northern Australia Coordination Network (preparedness for Emergency Animal Diseases in northern Australia)	
5.	Acceptance of previous minutes Moved: David Preece Seconded: Lewis De Franciscis Amendment: add Darryn Higgins to attendee's or meeting #62	
6.	Actions from Previous Meeting No. 62	

Business arising from previous meeting

62.1 – regional Gamba grass strategy development.

The development of a regional review and strategy development for gamba grass was discussed in more detail. This item is addressed in item 82.3

62.3 – arrange invitation for QPWS team to brief NAMAC on feral pig management programs at meeting #64. Recommendation to approach Stewart Johnston and Tahn Lawson.

8 General Business	
8.1 Benjamin Rhodes , Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Biosecurity Queensland) and coordinator for Northern Australia Coordination Network (preparedness for Emergency Animal Diseases in northern Australia)	
Ben provided a detailed overview of key animal health threats to the region and likely scenarios of how outbreaks could eventuate and what responses that would trigger. The presentation included foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever.	
8.2 Review of Regional Gamba grass strategy	
David Preece from CY NRM provided an overview of the options and approaches available to develop a regionally strategic approach to gamba grass. The NT zoning and compliance model was discussed as benchmark which could inform an FNQ approach. The national threat abatement plan for high biomass grasses has recently been revised and promotes regional approaches to gamba grass management (supporting the proposal to review/redevelop the regional management strategy). The success of the NT approach is centred on a clear roles and responsibilities model supported by locally led action and a permit system for retained plantings. Key opportunities and approaches discussed include: • Locally led and locally managed implementation • Permit system (code of proactive based) for retained plantings (not to enable new plantings). • Regional compliance approach preferred over local compliance model. • New state biosecurity planning framework may be useful to guide compliance.	
8.3 Biosecurity compliance – implementation and current practice	
CCRC provided an update on their development and implementation of a biosecurity compliance framework. The approach is targeting Thunbergia initially and using a systematic approach focused on voluntary compliance and biosecurity orders (in favour over PINS) where required. Arrangements for enter and clear works have been negotiated with a local contracting group. Council has focused on their own parcels containing Thunbergia at the same	

time. Local Laws have been amended and templates developed to allow the approach to be replicated across both Local Law and Biosecurity Act.

Discussion key points:

- Biosecurity training required for new staff
- Online marketplace issues – application now available, to undertake web scraping exports from iNaturalist. Can also search adverts from public domains and marketplaces.
- LG can approach electoral office to ascertain street address of registered voters

Action: 1. Call for Biosecurity compliance training to ascertain numbers and suitable supplier 2. Provide basic workflow for online compliance screening and web scraping for biosecurity.

8.4 Feral pig carcass disposal – situation update

The situation regarding disposal of animal carcasses has not been resolved. During the change of State government the request has remained without suitable response.

Action: prepare ministerial correspondence to DESI (cc'd to DPI) to seek resolution of issue as outlined in previous discussion paper.

8.5 ELGBC project

Travis provided an outline of the deliverables of the project and each of the outputs was workshopped

- a. Aquatic biosecurity outcomes report
- b. Wet Tropics biosecurity risks fact sheets – final review
- c. Wet Tropics biosecurity risks video series – review
- d. Project outcomes report – feedback and discussion

The option to develop an additional 2-3 videos if a variation can be secured was discussed. The next priority targets identified were: African tulip, Siam weed, feral pig trap preparation and best practice. Additional topics include weed hygiene, high biomass grasses, gamba grass.

Action: 1. circulate final proofs for endorsement when edits complete.
2. Enquire if variation is possible to produce 2-3 additional videos.

Action: request development of communication on the management of Navua sedge in line with wider adoption of UBINIQ and sedge rust

8.6 Locust Oversight Group – request for FNQROC/NQROC nomination

Nominee provided by Burdekin Region, no action now required.

8.7 Operational and strategic updates – LGs, NRM, BQ

Terrain NRM, Cape York NRM, Gulf Savannah NRM

Updated were provided around the room, items of note include:

Cassowary Coast is progressing the Local Area Natural Environment Disaster Preparedness Plan. Key local assets have been identified and

	mapped and supporting decision frameworks established. The data is now being incorporated to build trigger maps to guide disaster preparation and response. Gulf Savannah has acquired boar blanket traps and will be making them available for landholders to deploy. The frame for the mesh component of the traps can be left in place once the population has been reduced so it can be used at a later date. Cairns Regional Council is beginning a natural asset strategy planning process. 8.8 Land Protection – cat management research proposal The proposal has been tabled to Research Review Committee who expressed interest in a statewide proposal to address the issue and augment recent advances in cat management technology. 8.9 Reef Guardian Councils update Cr Jeff Baines provided an update on the Reef Guardian Councils Program. Councils are in full swing rolling out Reef Guardian Action Plans and projects. 8.10 Business arising	
9	Points for noting to the FNQROC Board	
10	Next meeting: NAMAC #64 Oct 31	
11	Meeting Close	

Actions arising

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
51.1 (45.6)	51.1 (45.6) – Discussion regarding integrated roadside vegetation management Updated action: Revise and expand the current Wet Tropics guide into a best practice document for broader use for local government.	FNQROC/NAMAC
62.1	Regional Gamba grass strategy Action: 1. Develop scope for review. 2. Identify collaborative resources available to initiate and undertake review.	1. FNQROC, CYNRM (CSC, TRC, MSC) 2. CYNRM, FNQROC
62.3 63.1	Feral pig management on state lands Action: NAMAC seek an update from QPWS on feral pig management programs, successes and actions. Updated action: arrange invitation for QPWS team to brief	FNQROC

	NAMAC on feral pig management programs at meeting #64. Recommendation to approach Stewart Johnston and Tahn Lawson.	
62.5 63.2	Feral pig carcass disposal Action: seek an update from LGAQ on request for Dept to review the situation. Updated action: prepare ministerial correspondence to DESI (cc'd to DPI) to seek resolution of issue as outlined in previous discussion paper.	FNQROC
63.3	Biosecurity compliance programs Action: 1. Call for Biosecurity compliance training needs to ascertain numbers and suitable supplier 2. Provide basic workflow for online compliance screening and web scraping for biosecurity.	1. FNQROC, NAMAC 2. BQ
63.4	ELGBC Project completion Action: 1. circulate final proofs for endorsement when edits complete. 2. Enquire if variation is possible to produce 2-3 additional videos. Action: 3. request development of communication on the management of Navua sedge in line with wider adoption of UBINIQ and sedge rust	1. FNQROC 2. FNQROC 3. FNQROC