

Animal Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No.	21
Meeting Name	Animal Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)
Date	17 April 2025
Time	9.30am – 2:00 pm
Venue	McKenzie Room, Cairns Regional Council - Online
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes 0448 852 732

Minutes

2.	<p>Attendance Kylie McAllister CSC, Benn Washington MSC, Tina Martin CRC, Dave Tuxworth DSC, Michael Malley DSC, Travis Sydes FNQROC - online: Kirsty Lamperd CCRC, Tamarah Moore LGAQ,</p>
3.	<p>Apologies Peter King RSPCA, Fionnuala Blayney DSC,</p>
4.	<p>Guests</p>
5.	<p>Acceptance of previous minutes 5.1 Moved: Kirtsy Lamperd 5.2 Seconded: Tina Martin</p>
6.	<p>Business from previous Meeting no.20</p>
7.	<p>7.1 Round Table Updates Updates were provided on key programs and projects around the room. Key points for the committee were:</p> <p>Cook Shire has received funding for its AM program in Coen and will be seeking to expand the program to Laura if possible, as well. A retrofit of an existing building and staffing resources will provide a base for Animal Management in Coen to continue to build on the success of the previous program.</p> <p>Action: Cook has offered to facilitate a field trip for interested staff and parties to inspect new facility and program once it is operational.</p> <p>7.2 Training – Proposal for a Regional Training Package Discussion on training packages for local law and animal management officers: Cairns Regional Council – Dangerous Dog Handling coming up in the 2025/26 financial year if there are additional staff from other Councils requiring the training</p> <p>Action: Circulate Dangerous Dog Handling training session details.</p> <p>7.3 De-sexing Programs - regional strategy and advocacy</p>

Recommendation: The AMTC recommends Board support for desexing programs to enhance animal and community health management.

Discussion: this will be captured in the

7.4 Disaster Resilience

7.5 Cat management research proposal

Travis provided a brief outline of the outcomes report from the Wet Tropics Cat Management Workshop. The committee discussed the research recommendations relevant to the AM Act functions of Local Government and partners. The AMTC relevant research knowledge gap/ needs identified are mapped in points 1 and 3 below. Additional notes from the discussion are included below.

1. Understanding the Wet Tropics cat population (owned and unowned)

1. What is the distribution, density and abundance of cats in the Wet Tropics? (with consideration given to variation according to features such as vegetation types and land use).
2. What is the relationship between owned and unowned cats in the Wet Tropics?
3. How do the different categories of cat's manifest in the Wet Tropics? What are the characteristics, values and barriers to management unique to this region and what are those the same as elsewhere in Australia?

3. Understanding management options/approaches

1. Which control methods/tools (or mix of tools) are most effective and appropriate (limited or no non-target impacts) within different Wet Tropics landscapes (rainforest, wet sclerophyll, savanna, rocky hills, townships)?
 2. What are the most effective approaches to incentivising improved owned cat management within traditionally non-compliant or unengaged parts of the community?
 3. What reduction in numbers is required to reduce the population of cats in the major land use categories of the Wet Tropics?
- Tina flagged a new research paper on urban cat management approaches using a trap-neuter-release methodology. - <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani15071005>
 - Better utilising the cat definitions simultaneously across both the Animal Management and the Biosecurity Act i.e. definition of a feral cat (unowned cat) that is not kept or fed by humans.
 - Better engagement with the community surrounding the reproductive capacity of cats and how rapidly generations can increase exponentially if left unmanaged.
 - Urban cats and dense cat populations in domestic houses are the primary concern of AM teams.
 - The research proposal in preparation delivers against (AM Strategy 3.12)

7.6 Regional Animal Management Strategy – delivered actions review

The broader delivery of the Regional AM Strategy was discussed, and two opportunities were identified

1. People and communities

1.3 – CRC animal specific survey provides a template for delivery

Action: LG's consider how to utilise approved inspection programs (Section 113) to report back on the level of community engagement, compliance, and understanding of AM requirements.

2. Partnerships and collaboration

- Many of the actions in section two are contingent on resources and funding available. Opportunities are available to deliver hands-on and skill sharing events such as disaster preparedness and micro-chipping days in the lead up to storm season (as per CRC operational example).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing funding for training and skills development required within AM roles due to high levels of skills and accreditations required and high staff turnover.
8.	<p>Points for noting to FNQROC Board</p> <p>From meeting #20 - 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 callouts 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> <p>Discussion: these observations frame some of the key considerations of the workforce capability review (AM Strategy 2.2) and a transition to socially and culturally informed approaches to management (AM Strategy 1.10 and 1.7). A report making a recommendation will be provided in due course.</p>
9.	<p>Next meeting AMTC #22 Aug 1 AMTC #23 Oct 24</p>
10.	<p>Meeting close</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"> FNQROC 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"> FNQROC AMTC

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
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 program 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AMTC, FNQROC 2. AMTC, FNQROC
21.1	<p>Coen Animal Management Facility</p> <p>Cook has offered to facilitate a field trip for interested staff and parties to inspect new facility and program once it is operational.</p>	AMTC, CSC
21.2	<p>Dangerous dog handling training</p> <p>Action: Circulate Dangerous Dog Handling training session detail when confirmed.</p>	CRC