

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	64
Meeting Name	NAMAC
Date	31 October 2025
Time	9:30-2:30
Venue	Committee 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 Tudor Tansase TRC, Matt Buckman HSC, David Preece CYNRM, Darryn Higgins CSC, Jade Monda CRC, Tom Crompton CRC, Online: Robert Biddle GSNRM, Rowan Ward CCRC, Michael Graham BQ, Cr Jeff Baines CCRC, Cr Ross Cardillo MSC, Travis Sydes FNQROC	
3.	Apologies Michael Anderson CCRC, Scott Morrisson GSNRM, Graham Wienert MSC, Cr Kate Milton HSC, Lewis De Franciscis CRC,	
4.	Guests Chris Roach –Senior Ranger – Pest Management (acting) - QPWS, Emma Atkins – Regional Biosecurity Lead – North Queensland	
5.	Acceptance of previous minutes Moved: Matt Buckman Seconded: Darryn Higgins	
6.	Actions from Previous Meeting No. 63	

Discussion - business arising from previous meeting

63.1 Feral pig management on State Land (QPWS)

Chris Roach provided an overview of key programs and operational management of feral pigs on national parks.

Internal funds Parks conducts routine management of feral pigs across its land, programs are place-based and are targeted to the protection of identified values like wetlands, threatened species or visitor assets. Internal funds are allocated in accordance with management plans through a submission process.

External funds QPWS also secures external funding to deliver programs that meet State and National priorities. An example of this is the turtle predation protection program on Cape York.

Boundary and cross boundary programs Parks also conduct or contribute to cross-boundary management programs with internal and external funding or operational resources including traps and staff time.

The committee discussed the ins and outs of feral pig management across boundaries and within National Parks.

Action: Formally invite a suitable representative from QPWS to participate in the NAMAC (Coverage to include coverage of the 3 bioregions of FNQROC).

<p>8 General Business</p> <p>8.1 Feral Pig Carcass Disposal Draft correspondence and option for advocacy delegation to State planned or Feb 2026. The committee discussed key developments and information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural landholders have a level of exemption for on -site hollow or pit for disposing of waste produced on the farm.• Publications or guidelines are available for carcass disposal in an emergency response, but are not provided for day-to-day operations, or at volume.• By DESI's ruling a disposal pit operated by a council – is a facility for the disposal of waste that requires an ERA 60 waste disposal environmental authority.• Being long-term as opposed to short-term has some bearing on the definition.• Seeking clarification of the circumstances where a feral animal carcass is regulated waste (vs general waste.• Whether an exemption like that provided to rural landholders could be established for LG pest control and road management programs. <p>Action: 1. review discussion paper with updated information. 2. Arrange discussion between relevant parties to align policy and advocacy conversation.</p> <p>8.2 Meet, greet and workshop session: Emma Atkins – Regional Biosecurity Lead – North Emma provided an overview of the program rollout. Items discussed included the biosecurity officer recruitment targets. 2 additional positions will be recruited for the north region. Teams will be based across the region including Torres Strait and NPA. One of the priority pieces of work will be to develop a biosecurity risk assessment for the region. This will inform future programs and investments and influence the implementation model for each region. The team has been undertaking face to face consultation with stakeholders right across the region to get a handle on the requirements and priorities for the region.</p> <p>8.3 Operational and strategic updates – LGs, NRM, BQ Terrain NRM, Cape York NRM, Gulf Savannah NRM</p> <p>8.4 Land Protection Fund – update</p>	
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The committee discussed the benefits and costs associated with the Land Protection Fund and the co-contribution process. There was agreement the region benefited from the research programs generated by the fund. It was acknowledged a lot of this success was attributable to local governments level of engagement with research programs. It was noted the reporting for the co-investment had improved significantly since the last review. The main concern for NAMAC was the current calculation methodology and the relevance of Gross Value of Agricultural Production (GVAP) in the equation. The high value agricultural industries which influence the outcome of the calculation do not usually have a strong engagement or relevance to local biosecurity plans (advanced ag industries are generally insular in their pest management programs). Other GVAP concerns were the inclusion/influence of aquaculture in the calculation when the industry has no bearing on local plans or LG jurisdiction. There will be a call for representatives for the review in 2026.

Action: FNQROC nominate a representative for the Land Protection Fund – Co-investment Model methodology review.

8.5 Reef Guardian Councils update

No new items for noting

8.6 Disaster Management Scenario exercise- 2025. Scheduling and format for 2025. A date claimer will be circulated for a 1.5-hour exercise in late November or early December. The format will be online so internet and video conferencing essential. Councils are encouraged to engage with their DM reps and bring together a small team at a single location for the exercise.

The exercise will be co-delivered by Maria and Travis from FNQROC.

Action: 1. circulate date claimer. 2. Invite DM leads to participate

8.7 Business arising

AQUABAMM assessments for Cape York and Wet Tropics are planned for early 2026. A call to assemble expert panels will be circulated by the Department closer to the date.

The Cooktown **Gamba grass taskforce** is scheduled for the week of the 27th of April 2026. A date claimer will be circulated shortly with more information in the new year.

Action: circulate date claimer for 2026 taskforce

New **crocodile safety training** is available, CRC staff will be participating.

9	Points for noting to the FNQROC Board	
10	Next meeting: March 5, 2026	
11	Meeting Close	

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. 2. CYNRM, 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
64.1	QPWS representation at NAMAC Action: Formally invite a suitable representative from QPWS to participate in the NAMAC (Coverage to include coverage of the 3 bioregions of FNQROC.	1. FNQROC
64.2 (63.2)	Feral pig carcass disposal (update replaces 63.2) Action: 1. Review discussion paper with updated information. 2. Arrange discussion between relevant parties to align policy and advocacy conversation.	1. FNQROC 2. FNQROC
64.3	Land Protection Fund and Co-contribution Calculation Methodology Action: FNQROC nominate a representative for the Land Protection Fund – Co-investment Model methodology review.	1. FNQROC
64.4	Disaster Management Scenario exercise Action: 1. circulate date claimer. 2. Invite DM leads to participate	1. FNQROC 2. LG's
64.5	2026 Task Forces Action: circulate date claimer for 2026 Gamba grass taskforce	1. FNQROC