

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	65
Meeting Name	NAMAC
Date	27 February 2026
Time	9:00-2:00
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 we 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, Michael Graham BQ, Steve Coulsen QPWS, Michael Anderson CCRC, Jade Monda CRC, Jess Conroy DSC, Lewis Defranciscis CRC, Tom Compton CRC, Dave Preece CYNRM, Graham Wienert MSC, Kael Whitnell MSC, Karen Bettink Terrain NRM, Travis Sydes FNQROC Online: Rowan Ward CCRC, Cr Kate Milwood HSC, Damon Sydes CCRC, Robert Biddles GSNRM, Cr Jeff Baines CCRC, Emma Atkins DPI,
3.	Apologies Matt Buckman HSC, Tudor Tanase TRC, Ken Golbey TRC
4.	Guests Julie Colman WTMA, John Cuskelly DPI, Wayne Condon Chief Pilot – Toll Uncrewed Systems, Ben Sale Chief Pilot and Maintenance Controller DPI
5.	Acceptance of previous minutes Moved: Jade Monda Seconded: Michael Anderson
6.	Actions from Previous Meeting No. 64

Discussion relating to actions from previous meeting

62.1 Regional Gamba Grass Strategy – this is ready to be activated now CY programs are in place. In June (3rd-4th) the NESP Team (NT) will be in Cape York to undertake mapping training.

63.3 – Biosecurity Compliance Training - opportunities will come about as new officers begin with the regional BQ team.

64.3 – Land Protection Fund, co-investment model review. No announcements have been made at this stage

8 General Business

8.1 Revision of biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval – WTMA, FNQROC

Julie Colman and Travis provided an overview of the background to the discussion.

With the Regional Plan soon to be released, reviews of local planning schemes for many Local Governments will soon be underway. Most current schemes contain out of date references and conditions which relate to the previous legislation. With the broader shift in responsibility under the Biosecurity Act to a General Biosecurity Obligation, planning scheme provisions and conditions of approvals may also require amendment. Drawing from the lessons identified by WTMA in protecting the work of the YCA eradication program in the Mount Peter Priority Development Area, FNQROC and WTMA are partnering to map out recommendations and options for the proposed Mount Peter Development Scheme and for Planning Schemes across the region. *(From the briefing paper provided).*

Key discussion points

- Most schemes still call up the superseded legislation. The Biosecurity Act as a modern legislation is a fundamental shift from the Land Protection Act.
- Biosecurity risk management plan requirements ...are these consistent with current biosecurity risk management needs. Many schemes call up weed but not pest animal (e.g. tramp ants) considerations.
- Standard conditions- Providing clear direction and examples of biosecurity risk management requirement may make it easier for developers to address any site-specific biosecurity risks in a way which aligns to your statutory biosecurity plan.
- Literacy of consultants on biosecurity obligations... Current plans call up provisions which may not aligned to contemporary Act requirements. Who assesses the biosecurity provisions in the development provisions? Is there follow up on implementation?
- With the shift to risk and obligations under the Biosecurity Act DA conditions may need to consider risk management steps related to on ground works and mitigation measures (e.g. weed hygiene, YCA inspections). The current approach typically only deals with invasive biosecurity matter on site prior to development.

Key observations and discussion

- The language of 'invasive biosecurity matter' should be used throughout.
- Biosecurity considerations should be a consideration within an EMP.
- Any provision amendments should be designed to not create additional or undue complexity or workload.
- The application of the provisions in schemes typically only apply to DA relevant works. Other self-assessable
- We have a gap in operational works within LG's too. Tools like the recently developed DPP for Cassowary Coast provide an example of how this could be applied.
- Materials, checklists and guidelines could be designed to provide clearer direction to consultants developing plans, and developers implementing them.
- Consideration for current and future fire risk management needs to be incorporated into planning footprint. i.e. room for firebreaks, water points and access between freehold and public land.

Action: 1. Collate examples from existing schemes where amendments may be required. 2. Develop model considerations for discussion. 3. Consider applicability of model considerations into LG operational works programs. 4. Convene fire management in planning conversation to identify essential requirements and considerations. 5. Identify biosecurity risk management requirements which need to be updated in the development manual.

8.2 Strategic planning – BQ North Region operations (this will also feed into the review of the regional natural asset management strategy) – BQ team & FNQROC

Michael Graham provided an overview of current operations and programs within the North Queensland IP&A team. With two new positions beginning shortly the regional team want to consult on key needs and programs which could supported with the additional capacity.

Travis flagged the review of the regional natural asset strategy could also be informed by the feedback on regional and strategic needs.

Action: circulate a short operational and technical support needs survey to the committee for feedback.

8.3 Drone licencing and management system options – Michael Graham BQ

A variety of TC Jasper recovery projects about to rollout include drone operations and capacity building for uncrewed systems. It is timely to have a discussion of the options and potential solutions available to LGs.

Michael provided a short overview of the key timelines and lessons in developing drone operations capacity in the regional team flagging lessons learned and potential pitfalls to avoid. Invited guest speakers Wayne Condon (Toll Uncrewed Systems) and Ben Sales (DPI) provided perspectives.

Key points for councils to consider early in their drone operations.

- Establish a data management plan- you will potentially generate huge volumes.
- Include a metadata schema that will suit your needs into the future from day one.
- Consider compliance with human rights, privacy and record keeping legislation.
- Build a plan for licencing and training.
- Start small then scale up. e.g. - Visual line of sight (VLOS), excluded category (Sub 2kg) with registration and operator accreditation (or RePL).

Action: 1. Councils consider future needs when developing current project plans. 2. Consider need for chief pilot accreditation within councils versus option of outsourcing to third party (or app) provider.

8.4 Queensland Feral Pig Action Plan – consultation, regional feedback

John Cuskelly provided an overview of Queensland Feral Pig Action Plan. The plan is out for consultation until March 27. FNQROC will provide feedback on the action plan via the survey portal. If required, we will accompany this with a submission.

Action: 1. Circulate marked up action plan for additional comment and complete survey based on areas raised. **2.** If necessary, prepare submission to the draft plan and circulate.

8.5 Operational and strategic updates – LGs, NRM, BQ
Terrain NRM, Cape York NRM, Gulf Savannah NRM

8.6 Land Protection Fund – update on aquatic weeds risk assessment project and Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Program Workshop
Travis provided an update on the progress of the two-project submission currently in front of the State Oversight Group for consideration.

After workshopping project design with a cross-disciplinary team from the Department, the aquatic weeds risk assessment project is now being developed into a draft project plan which will be tabled back to the State Oversight Group at the next sitting.

The Cat Management Research Program Workshop is scheduled for March 19. The outcomes of the workshop will be used to guide the development of a draft Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Program. FNQROC is seeing local government representatives from natural assets and animal management to join the workshop.

8.7 Reef Guardian Councils update

8.8 Updates

Representatives provided brief updates from around the room

Jess Conroy noted that Brad Everett will return to his substantive role and return as DSC rep at the NAMAC. The committee thanked Jess for her contribution to the group.

8.9 LGAQ Update

8.10 Business arising

Vector control program – knowledge and information sharing

Hinchinbrook raised the issue of training, information and support for vector control technicians requesting if other councils with a vector control program wanted to meet to share/discuss shared issues and processes.

Action: Cairns and Hinchinbrook arrange an information sharing session across their vector control programs.

9 Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

10 Next meeting:

June 12, September 18

11 Meeting Close

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
62.1	Regional Gamba grass strategy	1. FNQROC, CYNRM (CSC, TRC, MSC) 2. CYNRM, FNQROC

	Action: 1. Develop scope for review. 2. Identify collaborative resources available to initiate and undertake review.	
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
64.3	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
65.1	Revision of biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval Action: 1. Collate examples from existing schemes where amendments may be required. 2. Develop model considerations for discussion. 3. Consider applicability of model considerations into LG operational works programs. 4. Convene fire management in planning conversation to identify essential requirements and considerations. 5. Identify biosecurity risk management requirements which need to be updated in the development manual.	1. FNQROC, WTMA 2. NAMAC 3. LGSs 4. FNQROC, QPWS 5. FNQROC, NAMAC
65.2	Strategic planning – BQ North Region operations/FNQROC regional natural asset strategy review Action: 1. circulate a short operational and technical support needs survey to the committee for feedback.	1. BQ, FNQROC
65.3	Queensland Feral Pig Action Plan Action: 1. Circulate marked up action plan for additional comment and complete survey based on areas raised. 2. If necessary, prepare submission to the draft plan and circulate.	1. FNQROC, NAMAC. 2. FNQROC
65.4	Vector control program – knowledge and information sharing Action: Cairns and Hinchinbrook arrange an information sharing session across their vector control programs.	1. CRC, HSC