# Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

## Meeting Details

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| **Meeting No** | 66 |
| **Meeting Name** | NAMAC |
| **Date** | 12 June 2026 |
| **Time** | 9:00-2:00 |
| **Venue** | Committee Room*, level 3, Cairns Regional Council, cnr Spence and Draper Street Cairns<br>*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

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| **1.** | **Acknowledgement of Country** |
| **2.** | **Attendance**<br>Tom Crow Terrain NRM, Dave Preece Cape York NRM, Michael Anderson CCRC, Jade Monda CRC, Ethan Parker CRC, Matt Buckman HSC, Ken Golbey TRC, Darryn Higgins CSC, Brad Everett DSC, Cr Maree Baade TRC, Cr Kate Milton HSC, |
| **3.** | **Apologies**<br>Karen Bettink Terrain NRM, Cr Dave Bilney, |
| **4.** | **Guests**<br>Matt Shields – NAQS Animal Health |
| **5.** | **Acceptance of previous minutes**<br>**Moved:** Jade Monda<br>**Seconded:** Darryn Higgins |
| **6.** | **Actions from Previous Meeting No. 64** |

**Discussion arising from actions of previous meeting**

**62.1** Regional gamba grass strategy workshop is scheduled for June 23. The first workshop will focus on reviewing the proposed strategy framework and general approach. Key players from across the region are expected to attend with input from NT management program and NESP research team.

**General discussion:** important to include corridor and infrastructure managers in the conversation.
**Action:** Councils provide local links to communications and community engagement materials from Ergon.

**63.3 Biosecurity Compliance Training 2026/2027** - the committee identified ~20 attendees requiring Biosecurity Act compliance training. It would be ideal if this could align with the onboarding of new officers in the regional BQ team.

**Action:** forward proposed numbers on to BQ for consideration of hosting a regional/central training exercise.

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| **8** | **General Business**<br><br>**8.1 DAFF – NAQS feral pig sampling for animal health surveillance**<br>Matt Shields, Senior Project Officer from the NAQS (DAFF). Matt provided an overview of the sampling and surveillance work undertaken by the team across northern Australia. The team undertake sampling and maintenance of sentinel sites/herds for the detection of animal diseases in feral animals and domestic stock. The team monitor for diseases like Japanese encephalitis, foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever. The local team have recently been collaborating with Cairns Regional Council's biosecurity team to sample feral pigs from management programs. They joined us today to share the work they do and to extend the offer to other control programs who might be interested.<br>**Action:** 1. share NAQS contact details. 2. Contact NAQS team to inform of upcoming opportunities to sample animals from local control programs.<br><br>**8.2 Biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval –** The committee discussed updated biosecurity and natural asset planning conditions and advice they will or have provided to the planning to team to guide the review of the Local Planning Schemes. Two approaches were identified.<br><br>For councils with a high volume of applications where a case-specific consideration cannot be easily applied; or where there is an external agency that manages the interest in the region; the recommendation is to provide links in the planning scheme to the point source for technical advice and guidance, rather than building a prescriptive condition in the scheme itself. This allows for the most up-to-date guidance to be included.<br><br>For situations where a low volume of DA's allows for subject matter expert analysis of individual applications the preference is to provide detailed approval conditions for situations where a generic instruction does not address the site-based outcomes the plan is seeking to deliver. This approach is suited to situations where a lower volume of DA's can be addressed by councils' subject matter experts on a case-by-case basis, or where there is no external advice agency to direct the applicant to.<br><br>For biosecurity considerations, standard terms and language can be applied to draw the requirements from the Act (and regulation) as well as the Local Governments biosecurity plan and programs; or from dedicated program resources (e.g. – AntZone) to ensure the advice is accurate and up-to-date. Any existing references to legislation or regulation will need to be checked for |

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| | accuracy as some still reference the superseded Act, or the sections in regulation have changed since last scheme update.<br><br>**Action:** 1. Share examples of code advice and conditions. 2. Develop a standard biosecurity advice or condition for consideration.<br><br>**8.3 Biosecurity regulations and sunset review update**<br>FNQROC provided feedback directly to LGAQ but did not make a submission to the review (apart from those provided previously to the regulations review/listing process). No formal word has been given as to when the review of the Land Protection Fund methodology might take place or what will be included in the review. Initial advice has been that the calculation methodology will not be reviewed at this stage.<br><br>**8.4 EPBC Act reforms** – see attached documents (updates from LGAQ and DCCEEW)<br>The committee discussed the implementation and consultation underway with the reforms to the EPBC Act. Key guidance relating to approvals relates to record keeping requirements and assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines.<br><br>**Action:** circulate the summary slide deck from DCCEEW on the measures most relevant to local governments.<br><br>**8.5 Strategic planning – BQ North Region operations (this will also feed into the review of the regional natural asset management strategy)**<br>Carried over<br><br>**8.6 Operational and strategic updates –** LGs, NRM, BQ<br>Terrain NRM, Cape York NRM, Gulf Savannah NRM<br><br>**8.7 Land Protection Fund –** update on aquatic weeds risk assessment project and Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Program Workshop<br><br>**8.8 Reef Guardian Councils update**<br>Carried over<br><br>**8.9 MCAS-S tool (Multi-Criteria Analysis Shell for Spatial Decision Support) -** MCAS-S tool - DAFF<br>For information only – a new tool which may assist with local/regional level climate scenario planning<br><br>**8.10 LGAQ Update**<br>See EPBC Act briefing in agenda papers<br>**8.11 Business arising** |
| **9** | **Points for noting to the FNQROC Board** |
| **10** | **Next meeting:**<br>September 18 |
| **11** | **Meeting Close** |

## Actions arising from meeting #66

| Action Item | Action | Responsible Person(s) |
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| **63.3** | **Biosecurity compliance programs**<br>**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<br>2. BQ |
| **65.1** | **Revision of biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval**<br>**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~~<br>~~2. NAMAC~~<br>~~3. LGSs~~<br>4. FNQROC, QPWS<br>5. FNQROC, NAMAC |
| **65.2** | **Strategic planning – BQ North Region operations/FNQROC regional natural asset strategy review**<br>**Action:** 1. Circulate a short operational and technical support needs survey to the committee for feedback. | 1. BQ, FNQROC |
| **66.1** | **Utilities - weed hygiene measures when operating on private properties**<br>**Action:** Councils provide local links to communications and community engagement materials from Ergon. | 1. NAMAC, LGs |
| **66.2** | **DAFF – NAQS feral pig sampling for animal health surveillance**<br><br>**Action:** 1. share NAQS contact details. 2. Contact NAQS team to inform of upcoming opportunities to sample animals from local control programs. | 1. FNQROC. LGs or other control programs |
| **66.3** | **Biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval**<br>**Action:** 1. Share examples of code advice and conditions. 2. Develop a standard biosecurity advice or condition for consideration. | 1. NAMAC, NAMAC |
| **66.4** | **LG updates: CCRC Disaster Assets Preparedness Plan**<br>**Action:** Provide update on the DPP to the NAMAC for next meeting | 1. CCRC, NAMAC |