Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Details

Meeting No	67
Meeting Name	NAMAC
Date	18 September 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** Rob Biddle GSNRM, Michael Graham BQ, Tom Crompton CRC, Jade Monda CRC, Lewis Defranciscis CRC, Ken Golbey TRC, Matt Buckman HSC, Graham Wienert MSC, Darryn Higgins CSC, Jasmine Crossland GSNRM, Mia Beki GSNRM
3.	**Apologies** Cr Kate Milton HSC, Cr Jeff Baines CCRC, Cr Maree Baade TRC, Dave Preece CYNRM, Damon Sydes CCRC, Michael Anderson CCRC
4.	**Guests** Katja Ehler - Project Officer, Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity Biosecurity Queensland
5.	**Acceptance of previous minutes** **Moved:** Brad Everett **Seconded:** Jade Monda
6.	**Actions from Previous Meeting No. 66**

Business arising from previous meeting minutes

63.3 - 2. Provide basic workflow for online compliance screening and web scraping for biosecurity.

Resources from Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) can be accessed via the Wildlife Tracer portal. Users will need to create an account and then follow the instructions in the resources to set up your preferences and area of interest.

65.1 Fire risk management in development

Cairns has undertaken a review of the fire risk mapping which will be used to inform future land use planning and fire management actions.

8 General Business

Systems Mapping Project CYP and TSI - Katja Ehler - Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Katja provided an overview of the systems mapping project targeting the biosecurity issues and networks across the region. The systems map will be a publicly accessible living workspace into the future. Biosecurity Queensland has initiated the project, co-designing the systems map with stakeholders and community in the region. Please contact BQSystemsMapping@dpi.qld.gov.au for more information about the project. The forms to submit your profile into the systems map is available here Systems Mapping in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait

Action: 1. investigate the application of the systems map project to align to the development of the regional gamba grass strategy. 2. Consider hosting of workshop to bring local biosecurity stakeholders together to inform the systems map (Mossman, Cooktown)

8.1 Application to the Regional Drought Resilience Fund - Manage and prepare for the impacts of Bushfire Risk in relation to drought driven impacts on landscapes and potable water supplies

Travis provided an overview of the regional EOI prepared by Cassowary Coast which targets Wet Tropics LGA's. The proposed project focuses on analysing the fire management capability and risk to local governments and partners. The project will have a specific focus on water supplies and agricultural assets in the Wet Tropics with a specific sub project occurring in partnership with Gulf Savannah NRM.

Detailed deliverables and a full scope of works will be framed if the EOI is successful.

Action: 1. provide update on progress of EOI when available.

8.2 Regional gamba grass strategy – progress update

Travis provided an update on the initial workshop of the regional gamba grass strategy. The workshop explored the foundational principals of management and was informed by a selection of regional stakeholders and the Northern Territory gamba grass management team alongside researchers from Charles Darwin University and University of Western Australia.

Key points of discussion included;

- interpretation and delivery of containment as a management objective as defined in the classic invasion curve model. Problematic due a range of interpretations from different stakeholders and lack of practical tools for implementation.
- Exploration of the barriers to compliance as an option with contentious species and the specific challenges of regulatory proximity due to small communities and regional social networks. Options include regional compliance approaches (as enabled under the regional provisions of the Biosecurity Act) and the preference for State led compliance for high impact conflict species in regional loci due to community and politically based enforcement constraints.
- Risks and challenges of establishment of other undesirable species following on from gamba grass control – undesirable beneficiaries of gamba grass control include giant rat's tail grass, thatch grass, grader grass and mission grasses.

Action: 1. circulate the updated management framework and proposed voluntary/regulatory compliance approaches. 2. Investigate options for regionally led approaches to compliance for complex contexts where regulatory proximity is a genuine barrier.

8.3 Regional Development Manual - periodic review underway

Discussion around provisions in the manual which require updating. The Development Manual is comprised of both generic guidelines as well as council specific requirements. Cairns is undertaking a systematic review of the manual. FNQROC will undertake a review of the manual relevant to the NAMAC.

Action: Circulate recommended amendments and additions for additional comment and guidance.

8.4 Emergency Animal Disease workshop

Travis provided an overview of the workshop scheduled for September 21 at TRC. The invitation has been circulated to LDMG chairs and teams in the region as well as to the committee for consideration. The scenario will focus on a response to H1N5 high pathogenicity avian influenza.

8.5 Strategic operations - BQ North Region

Michael provided an update key activities and programs in the region.

Communications have been sent to CEOs regarding the rollout of programs under the Backing local Governments program. A range of resources have been developed and refined to assist LGs in delivering on their role in the Biosecurity Act.

Workshops targeting both executive and operational perspectives have been planned and will be undertaken in Cairns on 3-4 November.

Model text for inclusion in surveillance plans has been developed with local councils and is now available on the Backing Local Government web resource

Action: share model surveillance plan with updated references

Cochineal nopal cactus *(Oppuntia cochenillifera)* is now considered naturalised in Queensland so is no longer treated as a prohibited invasive plant.

Electric Ants Program is refunded until 2029. The increase in detections is a reflection of the expanded capacity and extensive surveillance underway. Of the 299 identified sites 51% are classified as eradicated.

Unmanned aerial and AI surveillance tools are being increasingly deployed across a wide range of biosecurity targets. An AI tool is being used to support analysis of Miconia calvescens survey imagery. The eVorta AI platform is being used in feral pig management programs to monitor and manage traps.

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

Updates from around the room

Action: Date claimer, Endeavour Valley gamba grass taskforce scheduled for 2027 over the week of 19-23 April.

8.7 Land Protection Fund – update

The Wet Tropics Cat Management Research Program is in final stages of draft and will be circulated in the coming month.

8.8 Reef Guardian Councils update

8.9 LGAQ Update

8.10 Business arising

9	**Points for noting to the FNQROC Board**
10	**Next meeting:** November 6
11	**Meeting Close**

Actions arising from meeting #67

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
65.1	**Revision of biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval** **Action:** 1. Convene fire management in planning conversation to identify essential requirements and considerations. ~~2. Identify biosecurity risk management requirements which need to be updated in the development manual.~~	1. FNQROC, QPWS ~~2. FNQROC, NAMAC~~
66.3	**Biosecurity considerations in planning scheme provisions and conditions of approval** **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** **Action:** Provide update on the DPP to the NAMAC for next meeting	1. CCRC, NAMAC
67.1	Systems Mapping Project CYP and TSI **Action:** 1. Investigate the application of the systems map project to align to the development of the regional gamba grass strategy. 2. Consider hosting of workshop to bring local biosecurity stakeholders together to inform the systems map (Mossman, Cooktown)	1. FNQROC/CYNRM 2. DSC,CSC
67.2	**Regional gamba grass strategy** **Action:** 1. circulate the updated management framework and proposed voluntary/regulatory compliance approaches. 2. Investigate options for regionally led approaches to compliance for complex contexts where regulatory proximity is a genuine barrier.	1. FNQROC,CYNRM 2. NAMAC
67.3	**Regional Development Manual - periodic review underway** **Action:** 1. Circulate recommended amendments and additions for additional comment and guidance.	1. FNQROC
67.4	**Model text for inclusion in surveillance plans**	1. HSC

	Action: 1. Share model surveillance plan with updated references	
67.5	**Endeavour Valley gamba grass taskforce** **Action:** 1. Date claimer, Endeavour Valley gamba grass taskforce scheduled for 2027 over the week of 19-23 April.	1. NAMAC