

Minutes Of The 21st Meeting Of The Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

Wednesday 6 December 2000

To be read in conjunction with the agenda papers for the 21st meeting of the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board, 6 December 2000.

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Mr Geoff Clare welcomed Dr Ian McPhail and all advisers and declared the meeting open at 9.35 am.

Attendance

Board Members

Mr Geoff Clare, General Manager, Vegetation Management and Use, Department of Natural Resources
Dr Ian McPhail, Executive Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Advisers

Ms Cathy Skippington, Regional Service Director Southern, QPWS (from 10.35 am)
Mr Terry Harper, A/Manager, Greater Moreton District, QPWS
Ms Eleanor McDonnell, Secretary to the Board and Senior Administration Officer, QPWS
Mr Bob Hoey, Principal Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr Ian Haig, Temporary Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr John Hicks, Manager, Maritime Services Northern, QPWS
Mr Lachlan Fullerton, Manager (Great Sandy) QPWS
Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy), QPWS
Mr Dave Batt, Principal Policy Officer, Public Forest, DNR
Mr Bob Speirs, Director, Parks and Wildlife Management, QPWS (from 9.35-9.50 am)
Ms Kim Davis, Assistant Manager, Resource Management, Financial Services, QPWS (11.05-11.40 am)
Mr Ralph Henderson, Business Development Manager, QPWS (from 10.40am)
Mr Ian Garven, Manager, Parks and Wildlife Policy, QPWS (9.30-11.00am, 12.15pm-12.50pm)

Minute Secretary

Ms Lucy Evans, Administration Officer (Committees) QPWS

2 Apologies

Ms Stephanie Golden, Project Officer, Green Island, QPWS

Additional Business

The Board wished to acknowledge Mr Boyland's contribution to the Recreation Areas Management Board.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to prepare a letter for Mr Clare's signature to Mr Boyland acknowledging and thanking him for his contribution to the Recreation Areas Management Board.

Access Qld Project

Mr Speirs, gave a brief presentation on the Access Qld Project. This is a whole of government initiative to integrate government permitting systems. Premiers Department has employed specialist people to customise a commercially available methodology for a business process review of business systems

within agencies. These can then be integrated in terms of their operations across government. Access Qld will provide a front-end for all public interaction services the government delivers.

The agencies involved are DNR, Transport, Premiers, State Development, DPI and EPA. There are implication for EPA in relation to the corporate environmental decision process (CEDS), as well as with the 72 permits and approvals the agency deals with on a regular basis. DNR were advocating the business process redesign for camping permits and permits to trasverse as a pilot project and wanted QPWS involved to ensure camping across parks, state forests and public lands were within one system.

Access Qld is initiating

- ♦ a State Government call centre,
- ♦ integration of counter services across the State, and
- ♦ development of a State Government website.

The business case and the business process redesign will be completed by mid December 2000. The business case will be part of the Premiers Department financial year bid for 2001/2002. Implementation of the pilot program for camping permits and permits to traverse would involve two key locations (Fraser Island a strong possibility).

Some advantages of the system are: -

- ♦ electronic processing;
- ♦ permits will be obtained before arriving at the site (relieving the workload of Issuing permits);
- ♦ education and information provisions.

3 Endorsement of Minutes of previous meeting.

A request was made to amend the spelling for Mr Millerd, which appeared in Agenda Item 6. Budget/Work Program Proposals 2000/2001. The minutes were endorsed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4 Business arising from previous minutes

4.1 Update - Fitzroy Island business proposal. (Mr Hicks)

Discussions

Mr Hicks advised that a Statement of Intent for the Fitzroy Island proposal had previously been circulated to key stakeholders for comment. A number of responses were received. However, due to staff resource issues, the matter has not progressed further.

A request was made for the Board to provide the Northern Region with funds (approximately \$70,000) for employment of a Professional Officer level 3 (PO3) for a period of twelve months, to further the declaration of Fitzroy Island, and if feasible, investigate the Magnetic Island proposal further.

Ms McDonnell advised that due to the shortfall in anticipated carry over funds, each area had been requested to review their budget to identify savings. Although some errors have been located and funds re-credited to RAM, it is not known if the funds would be available to employ a PO3.

Visitation numbers for Fitzroy Island are estimated at 80,000 per year. The two competing native title claims over Fitzroy Island have not been resolved to date. Other issues involving tour operators also remain unresolved. The Resort would not be included in the RAM area.

Mr Cook, Regional Service Director, QPWS (Northern Region) and Dr McPhail, QPWS will ultimately be involved in the negotiations with stakeholders on the Fitzroy Island proposal. The Magnetic Island proposal would require considerable pre-consultation before it could be progressed.

Mr Hicks acknowledged the current difficulties with funding and requested that the proposal for funds be considered for the 2001/2002 financial year.

Actions/Outcomes

- Dr McPhail requested that, as part of the budget process for 2001/02, a Business Case be presented for the employment of the PO3. This is to include tasks, milestones and performance targets on a project basis.
- Mr Garven to provide assistance in relation to current native title negotiations.

4.2 Update - Permit Agent issues. (Ms McDonnell)

Ms McDonnell gave a brief update on progress made on recovery of debts from permit agents. All agents are under various agreements and making payments to repay debts.

Ms McDonnell further advised the implementation of new Agreements is in progress, with consultation with all existing Agents having commenced. Areas of concern raised by most Agents include:

- ♦ the need for a separate bank account
- ♦ the requirement for public liability insurance with the Board as "co-insured"
- ♦ the requirement for a bank guarantee (some Agents find the bank fees involved are expensive).

Mr Hector Macdonald, Team Leader, Compliance and Litigation is meeting with Crown Law regarding the public liability insurance. Ms McDonnell will keep everyone informed of the outcomes.

Mr Hayden McLoughlin, Manager, Financial Services Unit recommended retaining the bank guarantee and deleting the requirement for a separate bank account. Ms McDonnell supported this recommendation stating that the audit and compliance strategies being put in place will provide sufficient security of funds.

The Manager Internal Audit, has approved the draft audit strategy submitted at the last Board meeting. Further negotiations will take place with Mr Knowles to develop an information package on responsible officers and process.

At a recent meeting of the Forest Service Recreation and Reference Group, the Minister acknowledged the difficulties experienced by user groups obtaining insurance with appropriate wording, and was prepared to look at and reduce the problems. The Board would prefer that Ram insurance requirements remain consistent with those of QPWS and DNR.

Ms McDonnell's work on the consultation with Agents was acknowledged and appreciated by QPWS staff.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell will continue to progress the implementation of new Agreements, and will make recommendations regarding bank guarantee and public liability insurance to the Board in due course.
- Ms McDonnell to liaise further with the Auditor on the procedures for audits.

4.3 Update - Potential New Recreation Areas. (Mr Hoey)

Mr Hoey advised that the Minister has publicly supported the evaluation of the Noosa North Shore/Cooloola area as a potential Recreation Area. A timetable for progressing the investigation has been prepared. The major difficulties with the proposal will be tenure complexities in the North Shore area.

It was noted that Local Shire Councils have indicated they would not support declaration proposals where State funds would be withdrawn from areas.

Mr Hoey further advised a timetable for Magnetic Island has not been developed due to the complexities and would require considerable time to advance.

Mr Hicks requested Mr Hoey allocate some time to progress the Fitzroy Island proposal. Mr Hoey stated the Noosa North Shore/Cooloola proposal had priority as it had been raised at a Ministerial Regional Community Forum, as well as through considerable correspondence to the Minister. Mr Hoey's present workload will not allow him to evaluate potential recreation areas at Magnetic or Fitzroy Islands. Mr Hicks requested Central Office staff consider the Fitzroy and Magnetic Islands proposals when work projects are set for next year.

Mr Clare tabled a paper outlining potential interest in utilising the RAM Act as part of the Regional Landscape Strategy for SEQ. He also indicated DNR was still exploring options for managing Tinaroo Dam environs and RAM may have a role to play.

Dr McPhail stated that the RAM Act should be viewed as an opportunity to manage recreation parks and protected areas, where fees collected are returned to the area for management of public resources.

4.3 (Part 2) Use of RAM legislation - Regional Landscape Strategy DNR.

See discussion on agenda item 4.3 above.

4.4 Update - Development of scoping document - Asset Management (Mr Hicks)

Mr Hicks stated since the last RAM Board meeting, a project group had been established within QPWS to design and develop a "whole of Service" asset management system. A summary of the project brief was included in agenda papers supplied.

Currently the depreciation of assets is being funded from Consolidated Revenue and not RAM funds, therefore depreciation and replacement of assets needs to be considered when formulating budgets.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to hold discussions with Mr Speirs in relation to the Fenwick implementation, to inquire how the RAM Board asset management initiative can be integrated into the asset management project, incorporating the link with DNR and QFA project.

4.5 Update on program - Working Groups. (Mr Ian Haig)

Mr Ian Haig advised that three working groups have been established, as per the decisions of the Board at the meeting held on 6 June 2000. The groups are reviewing:

- ♦ Camping permit format and procedures;
- ♦ Infringement Notice Management; and
- ♦ Commercial Four Operators Debt Management.

Whilst the camping permit review may be "taken over" by the Access Qld project, the review will remain active

The Infringement Notice Working Group is bringing the QPWS Manual into line with QRAM requirements and legislation. This will assist when QRAM transfers to the State Penalties Enforcement Procedures (SPERs) system.

The Commercial Operators Debt Management Working Group will soon formalise procedures for late payment as well as management response procedures. When completed, commercial operators will be advised of the outcomes. The Board were advised that when the working group commenced there were a number of tour operators owing fees. Mr Haig advised that approximately 80% of the money previously owing has now been recovered in full, with one operator making regular repayments under an Agreement. Dr McPhail congratulated staff on the actions taken.

An audit strategy similar to that being prepared for Agents will most likely be implemented for CTO's. The Auditor will include commercial operators when scheduling his work agenda each year.

4.6 Update - RAM legislation review. (Mr Hoey)

Mr Hoey advised that a further 12 month extension to the expiry of the Regulation has been granted. The Regulation is now due to expire on 31 August 2001. The temporary secondment of key QPWS staff has negatively impacted on the progress of the review.

Little work is required before consultation with other Departments/agencies can commence. The Cabinet Submission (Authority to Prepare a Bill) is 99% completed.

Changes to legislation fall into two categories - efficiency changes eg moving sections from the Act to the Regulation and other changes identified to make the act more flexible/applicable to both DNR and QPWS. The Board is strongly of the view that the current review which focuses mainly on the "efficiency changes" be concluded ASAP and be kept separate from any consideration needed to more fundamental strategic directions and reforms involving the legislation (see Item 8.1).

Actions/Outcomes

- ♦ A working group be formed including Dr McPhail, Mr Garven and Mr Hoey to ensure that all actions required to comply with the current deadline are met.
- ♦ A workshop involving QPWS and DNR be held to identify broader reforms which may require future amendments to the Act.

5 Operational Reports

5.1 Recreation Areas Management Unit - Central Office

Ms McDonnell provided an overview of the Central Office Operational Report.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.2 Moreton Island

Mr Harper provided an overview of the Moreton Island Operational Report.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.3 Green Island

Mr Hicks provided an overview of the Green Island Operational Report.

Photos on the wave-modelling project conducted by the Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory were circulated. The objective of the trial was to establish whether baffles under the jetty would decrease erosion at the end of the seawall. Initial findings suggest this is unlikely. A formal report will be submitted by the QGHL in the near future, with all findings and recommendations.

The Green Island Advisory Committee is developing a three-year Business Plan for Green Island.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.4 Inskip Peninsula

Mr Fullerton provided an overview of the Inskip Peninsula Operational Report.

Revenue is higher than expected.

.....
Geoff Clare - Chairperson

New hybrid waste treatment systems have been installed at the day use toilet and toilet 1 in campground "M.V. Sarawak". The system has had some problems, however the company has been pro-active in resolving these. Mr Peter Harvey, Capital Works Project Officer QPWS and Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy) will prepare a paper on these issues for distribution.

It was confirmed that another barge operator will commence between Inkip and Hook Points before Christmas.

Issues associated to the Bullock Point barge jetty will be addressed by the Great Sandy Marine Infrastructure Working Party at a meeting to be held in mid December. Whilst the jetty is not in the RAM area, we manage the carpark and associated access.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.5 Fraser Island

Mr Fullerton provided an overview of the Fraser Island Operational Report.

A meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2000 with Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village regarding dingo management and education processes within the resort. A Griffith University Honour student is undertaking a project on water quality at lakes on Fraser Island. A presentation will be given in April 2001.

Funding has been provided for three World Heritage projects, however for a smaller allocation of funds than requested: -

- ♦ Lake Allom toilet - requested \$85,250 - allocated \$55,000.
- ♦ Dundubara second ablution - requested \$300,000 - allocated \$150,000.
- ♦ Eli Creek boardwalk - requested \$300,000 - allocated \$200,000.

A proposal (after an evaluation of how the allocated funds can be used) will be submitted for consideration and approval. Of the 10 projects originally submitted for WH funding, projects 1 to 5 in order of priority were unfunded.

Legal representatives of an English backpacker have commenced action against QPWS over a dingo incident at Indian Head in 1998. Mr Fullerton stated that we have a strong case and strongly advised that the department not take the option of settling out of court.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

6. Budget Issues and reviewed Work Program Proposals 2000/2001.

Ms McDonnell introduced Ms Kim Davis, Assistant Manager, Resource Management, Financial Services, who attended the meeting to answer any questions regarding the Budget 2000/2001.

6.1 Reviewed Budget 2000-2001

- State-wide Summary
- Central Office

Ms McDonnell advised that although the 2000/2001 budget and work programs were approved by the Board at the 8 June 2000 meeting, a shortfall in anticipated carry over funds at the end of financial year has required each area to review the approved budget to identify savings. Financial Services have located errors in financial records relating to assets; resulting in \$112,000 being re-credited to RAM. Further investigations are to be carried out. If revenue does not reach predicted figures, the Board may face a potential over-expenditure of \$75,000.

Ms Davis advised that a process is currently being put in place to ensure that errors do not occur in the future.

Central Office has identified savings totalling \$31,000, this amount has come from saving on floor rental costs and minor savings on Mr Haig's salary. A state-wide summary was not prepared as reviewed figures were not available for the Fraser and Inskip areas but savings by Central Office and Green Island had already resulted in a potential positive carry over balance.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to prepare regular state-wide summaries to monitor revenue and expenditure for 2000/01.

6.2 Budget issues - Moreton Island Recreation Area

Mr Harper advised revenue for this year is slightly lower than anticipated, however monies may have been coded incorrectly. The figures given in the report are to 30 October 2000 and would not include agent's fees collected in that month.

6.3 Budget issues - Green Island

The carryover for Green Island was approximately \$80,000 less than expected. The revised Annual Work Program for Green Island allows for expenditure on the interpretation facility to be spread over two years, and by deferring projects in the current annual business plan, Green Island can make the necessary savings.

Investigations are being carried out (at the local level) into potential error in system codings when the construction of the ranger residence was completed. May result in the recrediting of appx \$84K.

6.4 Budget issues - Inskip Peninsula

Inskip Peninsula reported an increase in revenue.

6.5 Budget issues - Fraser Island

Fraser Island has increased revenue, which will cover their deficit. There have also been savings with anticipated expenditure for salaries and wages. Further savings will be made by not having contract cleaning of toilets except for Waddy Point Management District and Wanggoolba Creek Barge Landing toilets.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board noted the anticipated savings and endorsed the revised Budget and reviewed Work Program Proposal 2000/2001 as submitted by Green Island.
- The Board thanked Ms Davies for her attendance and assistance.

7 Specific Issues

7.1 Green Island

7.1.1 Deed of Agreement Daikyo

Mr Hicks advised that currently, \$120,000 is spent annually on servicing the day visitor facilities on Green Island. Reef Management is reviewing the costs involved and when completed, a revised (more economic) Agreement will be arranged. Submitted for the information of the Board only.

7.1.2 Green Island Management Plan

The final Draft Management Plan for Green Island Recreation Area was submitted to the Board to endorse for advertising and public comment.

Mr Hicks confirmed that latency would be addressed in a Statewide Policy Development process rather than in the plan. The draft plan therefore states 'QPWS and GBRMPA in consultation with stakeholders and other interest groups will develop an allocation policy to address the issue of achieving fair and equitable commercial access within the daily 2240 persons limit.'

Mr Henderson updated members on the AEC Report regarding tourism on protected areas. This Report was presented to the forum in August, and since then has been distributed to QPWS staff, Government Agencies and interested operators. The working group has been expanded to include two more operators.

Mr Hoey highlighted a number of errors in the draft plan presented and recommended that a final rigorous check for errors be made of the document. Section 4 of the plan should be corrected so it is clear this is not a Management Plan for Green Island National Park.

Dr McPhail questioned the correctness of the jurisdictional boundaries shown in Figure 1 of the plan and suggested that Crown Law advice be sought.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board to endorse the draft Green Island Recreation Area Management Plan for advertising and public comment out of session when corrections have been finalised.

7.1.3 Interpretation Centre

A revised project timetable for the Interpretive Facility was submitted, splitting the costs over two financial years. This will facilitate the savings necessary to balance the budget.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board endorsed the revised timetable for the implementation of the Green Island Interpretation Facility project as submitted.

7.2 Fraser Island/Inskip Peninsula (no paper)

Queensland Police have made an application to build a base at Eurong. A contour map of the area will be provided to Queensland Police who will submit a design plan for a single person quarters for our consideration. Fraser Island will benefit from the presence of Police on the island. This will be progressed out of session.

7.3 Moreton Island

7.3.1 Future Police Base on Moreton Island

Mr Harper updated members on a proposal for co-location of a Police station and accommodation at the QPWS management base at Ben Ewa. This agenda item was raised for advice or policy direction by the Board.

Mr James Haig advised he had experienced a similar arrangement in another State, which worked very effectively.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board acknowledged the benefits of proposed co-locations and provided in principle support.
- A steering committee under the Moreton Island Essential Services Group will report on developments and available options for co-location of a Police station.

7.3.2 Cowan Cowan Beach Closure.

Mr Harper summarised the history of the Cowan Cowan beach closure. He confirmed that the Cowan Cowan Residents Association support the revised proposal for the closure. The association would prefer that the new arrangements be in place before Christmas. Mr Harper stated that this will not be possible due to the notification requirements under Native Title.

An education program over the Christmas period will fully inform residents and visitors of the closure. Parking for up to 10 vehicles and trailers will be made available behind the frontal dune. Additional signage will also be erected.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board endorsed the Cowan Cowan Beach Closure proposal as submitted in the Agenda papers.

8 Other Business

8.1 QPWS Divisional restructure.

General discussions took place on the recent QPWS Divisional restructure with the focus on Mr Hoeys' move from the Management to the Strategy division.. Mr Garven advised that there are many benefits to better integrating the RAM functions into the policy and legislation framework of QPWS. Mr Clare supported this in principle, and reiterated his view as expressed at previous meetings that differences between RAM and broader agency policies (and between the policies of QPWS and DNR) should be avoided unless clearly justified.

It was agreed that there was a need to increase awareness of the versatility of the RAM legislation within both QPWS and DNR.

The Board confirmed that the future meetings be more strategic. To assist with this, Ms McDonnell encouraged each area to forward more operational type issues requiring Board decisions for "out of session" action.

Actions/Outcomes

- Mr Garven to circulate "out of session" a paper scoping possible future directions/applications for RAM legislation. Mr Mike Devery, DNR was nominated as a contact.

9. Close

Next meeting will be held in May 2000 - the exact date to be confirmed.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.50 pm. Mr Clare thanked all Board members and advisers for their attendance.

Subject: Draft minutes of RAM Board meeting 6 Dec 2000

Date: Thu, 01 Feb 2001 16:44:30 +1000

From: "John Hicks" <john.hicks@env.qld.gov.au> **Internal**

Organization: Environmental Protection Agency

To: Eleanor McDonnell <Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au>,
Stephanie Golden <Stephanie.Golden@env.qld.gov.au>

sch4p4(6) Personal information

y
paragraph of Section 7.1.2 Green Island Management Plan -
these in the attached document.

e 4th
see

changes made

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Scott Clare

☐ Draft Minutes of 6Dec00.doc	
--	--

RTI DL RELEASE - NPRSR

The Board thanked Ms Davies for her attendance and assistance.

7 Specific Issues

7.1 Green Island

7.1.1 Deed of Agreement Daikyo

Mr Hicks advised that currently, \$120,000 is spent annually on servicing the day visitor facilities on Green Island. Reef Management is reviewing the costs involved and when completed, a revised (more economic) Agreement will be arranged. Submitted for the information of the Board only.

7.1.2 Green Island Management Plan

The final Draft Management Plan for Green Island Recreation Area was submitted to the Board to endorse for advertising and public comment.

Mr Hicks confirmed that latency would be addressed in a Statewide Policy Development process rather than in the plan. The draft plan therefore states 'QPWS and GBRMPA in consultation with stakeholders and other interest groups will develop an allocation policy to address the issue of achieving fair and equitable commercial access within the daily 2240 persons limit.'

Mr Henderson updated members on the AEC Report. This Report was presented to the forum in August, and since then has been distributed to QPWS staff, Government Agencies and interested operators. The working group has been expanded to include two more operators.

Mr Hoey highlighted a number of errors in the draft plan presented and recommended that a final rigorous check for errors be made of the document. Section 4 of the plan should be corrected so it is clear to clarify if this is also not a statutory Management Plan for Green Island National Park under the Nature Conservation Act.

Dr McPhail questioned the correctness of the jurisdictional boundaries shown in Figure 1 of the plan and suggested that Crown Law advice be sought.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board to endorse the draft Green Island Recreation Area Management Plan for advertising and public comment out of session when corrections have been finalised.

7.1.3 Interpretation Centre

A revised project timetable for the Interpretive Facility was submitted, splitting the costs over two financial years. This will facilitate the savings necessary to balance the budget.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board endorsed the revised timetable for the implementation of the Green Island Interpretation Facility project as submitted.

7.2 Fraser Island/Inskip Peninsula (no paper)

Queensland Police have made an application to build a base at Eurong. A contour map of the area will be provided to Queensland Police who will submit a design plan for a single person quarters for our consideration. Fraser Island will benefit from the presence of Police on the island. This will be progressed out of session.

7.3 Moreton Island

7.3.1 Future Police Base on Moreton Island



Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

160 Ann Street • Brisbane, Queensland • PO Box 155 • BRISBANE ALBERT STREET QLD 4002 • AUSTRALIA
Telephone (07) 3227 7800 • Facsimile (07) 3227 7676 • www.env.qld.gov.au

Enquiries
Telephone
Your Reference
Our Reference

Eleanor McDonnell
3227 7417
BNE 1939

19 December 2000

sch4p4(6) Personal information

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Dr Ian McPhail, Member QRAMB
Geoff Clare, Member QRAMB
Ms Cathy Skippington, Regional Service Director Southern, QPWS
Mr Terry Harper, A/Manager, Greater Moreton District, QPWS
Mr Bob Hoey, Principal Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr Ian Haig, Temporary Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr John Hicks, Manager, Maritime Services Northern, QPWS
Mr Lachlan Fullerton, Manager (Great Sandy), QPWS
Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy)
Mr Dave Batt, Principal Policy Officer, Public Forest, DNR
Mr Bob Speirs, Director, Parks and Wildlife Management, QPWS
Mr Ralph Henderson, Business Development Manager, QPWS
Mr Ian Garven, Manager, Parks and Wildlife Policy, QPWS

FROM:

Eleanor McDonnell, Secretary QRAMB

SUBJECT:

QRAMB Meeting - 6 December 2000

Attached for your comment is the first draft of the minutes taken at the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board meeting held on 6 December 2000.

As you can appreciate a number of editorial decisions need to be made when preparing a document of this size. All efforts have been made to identify the key issues and hopefully these have been portrayed in the correct context.

It would be appreciated if you would forward any comments by COB Wednesday 10 January 2001. Please use the "tracking" tool in Word if sending comments electronically.

A summary of all actions/outcomes arising from the meeting will be prepared and circulated with the final minutes.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3227 7417, noting that I will be on leave from 27 Dec to 5 January inclusive.

Wishing you all a restful and carefree Christmas and New Year.

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Eleanor McDonnell

Secretary

Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

RTI DL RELEASE - NPRSR



Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

160 Ann Street • Brisbane, Queensland • PO Box 155 • BRISBANE ALBERT STREET QLD 4002 • AUSTRALIA
Telephone (07) 3227 7800 • Facsimile (07) 3227 7676 • www.env.qld.gov.au

Enquiries Eleanor McDonnell
Telephone 3227 7417
Your Reference
Our Reference BNE 1939

19 December 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr Ian McPhail, Member QRAMB
Geoff Clare, Member QRAMB
Ms Cathy Skippington, Regional Service Director Southern, QPWS
Mr Terry Harper, A/Manager, Greater Moreton District, QPWS
Mr Bob Hoey, Principal Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr Ian Haig, Temporary Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr John Hicks, Manager, Maritime Services Northern, QPWS
Mr Lachlan Fullerton, Manager (Great Sandy), QPWS
Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy)
Mr Dave Batt, Principal Policy Officer, Public Forest, DNR
Mr Bob Speirs, Director, Parks and Wildlife Management, QPWS
Mr Ralph Henderson, Business Development Manager, QPWS
Mr Ian Garven, Manager, Parks and Wildlife Policy, QPWS

FROM: Eleanor McDonnell, Secretary QRAMB

SUBJECT: QRAMB Meeting - 6 December 2000

Attached for your comment is the first draft of the minutes taken at the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board meeting held on 6 December 2000.

As you can appreciate a number of editorial decisions need to be made when preparing a document of this size. All efforts have been made to identify the key issues and hopefully these have been portrayed in the correct context.

It would be appreciated if you would forward any comments by COB Wednesday 10 January 2001. Please use the "tracking" tool in Word if sending comments electronically.

A summary of all actions/outcomes arising from the meeting will be prepared and circulated with the final minutes.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3227 7417, noting that I will be on leave from 27 Dec to 5 January inclusive.

Wishing you all a restful and carefree Christmas and New Year.

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Eleanor McDonnell

Secretary

Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

RTI DL RELEASE - NPRSR

Subject: Final RAM minutes

Date: Fri, 19 Jan 2001 11:45:04 +1000

From: Eleanor McDonnell <eleanor.mcdonnell@env.qld.gov.au>

Organization: Environmental Protection Agency

To: Geoff Clare <Geoff.Clare@dnr.qld.gov.au>

Geoff,

Attached are the final minutes for the last meeting. Very few comments were received other than your own. I have incorporated these - with a few minor changes.

I have only just discovered that I should be getting the Chair to initial each page of the original minutes (how long have I been doing this job??). It would therefore be appreciated if you could print, read, and if all OK - initial the attached document. Send it back at your leisure - sch4p4(6) Personal information I will circulate the signed copy to other participants upon my return.

Cheers

Eleanor

PS You may have to check that the page numbers in the footer are OK before you print - I often find that it mucks itself up between closing and re-opening the doc.

--

+-----+
Eleanor McDonnell
Secretary

Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Tel: 07 3227 7417 Fax: 07 3227 7676
E-mail: Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au

☐ FINAL min 19 Jan.doc	Name: FINAL min 19 Jan.doc Type: Winword File (application/msword) Encoding: base64
---	--

Minor changes to 7.1.2
requested @ 1/2.
Not yet signed by Mr Clare
- amendments made.

sch4p4(6) Personal information

7/2

**Attendance 21st Meeting of the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board
6 December 2000**

Board Members

Dr Ian McPhail, Executive Director, Policy and Operations, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Y - Mr Geoff Clare, General Manager Vegetation Management and Use, Dept of Natural Resources

Advisers

N Ms Cathy Skippington, Regional Service Director Southern, QPWS

N Mr Terry Harper, A/Manager, Greater Moreton District, QPWS Discussed 17/1 - nil comment

Ms Eleanor McDonnell, Secretary to the Board and Senior Administration Officer, QPWS

N Mr Bob Hoey, Principal Conservation Officer, QPWS

Ian Haig, Temporary Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS

John Hicks, Manager, Maritime Services Northern, QPWS

Mr Lachlan Fullerton, Manager (Great Sandy) QPWS

Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy), QPWS (1) phone 18/1 (sch 4(6) Personal information)

Ms Rebecca Williams, A/Manager, Forest Management, DNR

OR Mr Dave Batt, Principal Policy Officer, Public Forest, DNR

Ms Kim Davis, Assistant Manager, Resource Management, Financial Services

Observers

Mr Ralph Henderson, Business Development Manager, QPWS

Ian Garven, Manager, Parks and Wildlife Policy, QPWS

Minute Secretary

Ms Lucy Evans, Administration Officer (Committees), QPWS

N. Bob Speers

reply - comments made

reply - no comments

Subject: FW: Minutes - QRAMB meeting

Date: Wed, 20 Dec 2000 12:08:39 +1000

From: <Geoff.Clare@dnr.qld.gov.au>

To: Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au

CC: Michael.Devery@dnr.qld.gov.au, Rebecca.Williams@dnr.qld.gov.au

Eleanor,

Some changes in red and a comment in a yellow box. Sorry forgot to use tracking.

Mike: Note action under item 8.1. A workshop might follow. Better find version 26.

Geoff

-----Original Message-----

From: Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au

[mailto:Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2000 16:36

To: Geoff Clare; Terry Harper; Bob Hoey; Ian Haig; John Hicks; Lachlan Fullerton; James Haig; Ralph Henderson; Ian Garven;

David.Batt@dnr.qld.gov.au

Subject: Minutes - QRAMB meeting

Attached documents refer - enjoy!!!

Cheers

Eleanor

[Image]

--

Eleanor McDonnell

Secretary

Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Tel: 07 3227 7417 Fax: 07 3227 7676

E-mail: Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au

The information in this e-mail together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material.

Any form of review, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this e-mail message is prohibited.

If you have received this message in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this message and any copies of this message from your computer and/or your computer system network.

Subject:

Date: Wed, 20 Dec 2000 12:08:41 +1000

Attached documents refer - enjoy!!!

Cheers

Release

Eleanor

-----+
Eleanor McDonnell
Secretary
Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Tel: 07 3227 7417 Fax: 07 3227 7676
E-mail: Eleanor.McDonnell@env.qld.gov.au

 C:\TEMP\nsmailB5.gif	Name: C:\TEMP\nsmailB5.gif Type: GIF Image (image/gif) Encoding: base64
--	--

 Draft 1 - 18 Dec.doc	Name: Draft 1 - 18 Dec.doc Type: Winword File (application/msword) Encoding: base64
--	--

 Draft minutes memo Dec 2000.doc	Name: Draft minutes memo Dec 2000.doc Type: Winword File (application/msword) Encoding: base64
---	---

Saved as "Comments - Clove minutes"

RTI DL RELEASE - NRSR

Minutes Of The 21st Meeting Of The Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board

Wednesday 6 December 2000

To be read in conjunction with the agenda papers for the 21st meeting of the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board, 6 December 2000.

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Mr Geoff Clare welcomed Dr Ian McPhail and all advisers and declared the meeting open at 9.35 am.

Attendance

Board Members

Mr Geoff Clare, General Manager, Vegetation Management and Use, Department of Natural Resources
Dr Ian McPhail, Executive Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Advisers

Ms Cathy Skippington, Regional Service Director Southern, QPWS (from 10.35 am)
Mr Terry Harper, A/Manager, Greater Moreton District, QPWS
Ms Eleanor McDonnell, Secretary to the Board and Senior Administration Officer, QPWS
Mr Bob Hoey, Principal Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr Ian Haig, Temporary Senior Conservation Officer, QPWS
Mr John Hicks, Manager, Maritime Services Northern, QPWS
Mr Lachlan Fullerton, Manager (Great Sandy) QPWS
Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy), QPWS
Mr Dave Batt, Principal Policy Officer, Public Forest, DNR
Mr Bob Speirs, Director, Parks and Wildlife Management, QPWS (from 9.35-9.50 am)
Ms Kim Davis, Assistant Manager, Resource Management, Financial Services, QPWS (11.05-11.40 am)
Mr Ralph Henderson, Business Development Manager, QPWS (from 10.40am)
Mr Ian Garven, Manager, Parks and Wildlife Policy, QPWS (9.30-11.00am, 12.15pm-12.50pm)

Minute Secretary

Ms Lucy Evans, Administration Officer (Committees) QPWS

2 Apologies

Ms Stephanie Golden, Project Officer, Green Island, QPWS

Additional Business

The Board wished to acknowledge Mr Boyland's contribution to the Recreation Areas Management Board.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to prepare a letter for Mr Clare's signature to Mr Boyland acknowledging and thanking him for his contribution to the Recreation Areas Management Board.

Access Qld Project

Mr Speirs, gave a brief presentation on the Access Qld Project. This is a whole of government initiative to integrate government permitting systems. Premiers Department has employed specialist people to customise a commercially available methodology for a business process review of business systems

.....
Geoff Clare - Chairperson

Page 1 of 9

within agencies. These can then be integrated in terms of their operations across government. Access Qld will provide a front-end for all public interaction services the government delivers.

The agencies involved are DNR, Transport, Premiers, State Development, DPI and EPA. There are implication for EPA in relation to the corporate environmental decision process (CEDS), as well as with the 72 permits and approvals the agency deals with on a regular basis. DNR were advocating the business process redesign for camping permits and permits to trasverse as a pilot project and wanted QPWS involved to ensure camping across parks, state forests and public lands were within one system.

Access Qld is initiating

- ♦ a State Government call centre,
- ♦ integration of counter services across the State, and
- ♦ development of a State Government website.

The business case and the business process redesign will be completed by mid December 2000. The business case will be part of the Premiers Department financial year bid for 2001/2002. Implementation of the pilot program for camping permits and permits to traverse would involve two key locations (Fraser Island a strong possibility).

Some advantages of the system are: -

- ♦ electronic processing;
- ♦ permits will be obtained before arriving at the site (relieving the workload of issuing permits);
- ♦ education and information provisions.

3 Endorsement of Minutes of previous meeting.

A request was made to amend the spelling for Mr Millerd, which appeared in Agenda Item 6. Budget/Work Program Proposals 2000/2001. The minutes were endorsed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4 Business arising from previous minutes

4.1 Update - Fitzroy Island business proposal. (Mr Hicks)

Discussions

Mr Hicks advised that a Statement of Intent for the Fitzroy Island proposal had previously been circulated to key stakeholders for comment. A number of responses were received. However, due to staff resource issues, the matter has not progressed further.

A request was made for the Board to provide the Northern Region with funds (approximately \$70,000) for employment of a Professional Officer level 3 (PO3) for a period of twelve months, to further the declaration of Fitzroy Island, and if feasible, investigate the Magnetic Island proposal further.

Ms McDonnell advised that due to the shortfall in anticipated carry over funds, each area had been requested to review their budget to identify savings. Although some errors have been located and funds re-credited to RAM, it is not known if the funds would be available to employ a PO3.

Visitation numbers for Fitzroy Island are estimated at 80,000 per year. The two competing native title claims over Fitzroy Island have not been resolved to date. Other issues involving tour operators also remain unresolved. The Resort would not be included in the RAM area.

Mr Cook, Regional Service Director, QPWS (Northern Region) and Dr McPhail, QPWS will ultimately be involved in the negotiations with stakeholders on the Fitzroy Island proposal. The Magnetic Island proposal would require considerable pre-consultation before it could be progressed.

Mr Hicks acknowledged the current difficulties with funding and requested that the proposal for funds be considered for the 2001/2002 financial year.

Actions/Outcomes

- Dr McPhail requested that, as part of the budget process for 2001/02, a Business Case be presented for the employment of the PO3. This is to include tasks, milestones and performance targets on a project basis.
- Mr Garven to provide assistance in relation to current native title negotiations.

4.2 Update - Permit Agent issues. (Ms McDonnell)

Ms McDonnell gave a brief update on progress made on recovery of debts from permit agents. All agents are under various agreements and making payments to repay debts.

Ms McDonnell further advised the implementation of new Agreements is in progress, with consultation with all existing Agents having commenced. Areas of concern raised by most Agents include:

- ♦ the need for a separate bank account
- ♦ the requirement for public liability insurance with the Board as "co-insured"
- ♦ the requirement for a bank guarantee (some Agents find the bank fees involved are expensive).

Mr Hector Macdonald, Team Leader, Compliance and Litigation is meeting with Crown Law regarding the public liability insurance. Ms McDonnell will keep everyone informed of the outcomes.

Mr Hayden McLoughlin, Manager, Financial Services Unit recommended retaining the bank guarantee and deleting the requirement for a separate bank account. Ms McDonnell supported this recommendation stating that the audit and compliance strategies being put in place will provide sufficient security of funds.

The Manager Internal Audit, has approved the draft audit strategy submitted at the last Board meeting. Further negotiations will take place with Mr Knowles to develop an information package on responsible officers and process.

At a recent meeting of the Forest Service Recreation and Reference Group, the Minister acknowledged the difficulties experienced by user groups obtaining insurance with appropriate wording, and was prepared to look at and reduce the problems. The Board would prefer that Ram insurance requirements remain consistent with those of QPWS and DNR.

Ms McDonnell's work on the consultation with Agents was acknowledged and appreciated by QPWS staff.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell will continue to progress the implementation of new Agreements, and will make recommendations regarding bank guarantee and public liability insurance to the Board in due course.
- Ms McDonnell to liaise further with the Auditor on the procedures for audits.

4.3 Update - Potential New Recreation Areas. (Mr Hoey)

Mr Hoey advised that the Minister has publicly supported the evaluation of the Noosa North Shore/Cooloola area as a potential Recreation Area. A timetable for progressing the investigation has been prepared. The major difficulties with the proposal will be tenure complexities in the North Shore area.

It was noted that Local Shire Councils have indicated they would not support declaration proposals where State funds would be withdrawn from areas.

Mr Hoey further advised a timetable for Magnetic Island has not been development due to the complexities and would require considerable time to advance.

Mr Hicks requested Mr Hoey allocate some time to progress the Fitzroy Island proposal. Mr Hoey stated the Noosa North Shore/Cooloola proposal had priority as it had been raised at a Ministerial Regional Community Forum, as well as through considerable correspondence to the Minister. Mr Hoey's present workload will not allow him to evaluate potential recreation areas at Magnetic or Fitzroy Islands. Mr Hicks requested Central Office staff consider the Fitzroy and Magnetic Islands proposals when work projects are set for next year.

Mr Clare tabled a paper outlining potential interest in utilising the RAM Act as part of the Regional Landscape Strategy for SEQ. He also indicated DNR was still exploring options for managing Tinaroo Dam environs and RAM may have a role to play.

Dr McPhail stated that the RAM Act should be viewed as an opportunity to manage recreation parks and protected areas, where fees collected are returned to the area for management of public resources.

4.3 (Part 2) Use of RAM legislation - Regional Landscape Strategy DNR.

See discussion on agenda item 4.3 above.

4.4 Update - Development of scoping document - Asset Management. (Mr Hicks)

Mr Hicks stated since the last RAM Board meeting, a project group had been established within QPWS to design and develop a "whole of Service" asset management system. A summary of the project brief was included in agenda papers supplied.

Currently the depreciation of assets is being funded from Consolidated Revenue and not RAM funds, therefore depreciation and replacement of assets needs to be considered when formulating budgets.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to hold discussions with Mr Speirs in relation to the Fenwick implementation, to inquire how the RAM Board asset management initiative can be integrated into the asset management project, incorporating the link with DNR and QFA project.

4.5 Update on program - Working Groups. (Mr Ian Haig)

Mr Ian Haig advised that three working groups have been established, as per the decisions of the Board at the meeting held on 6 June 2000. The groups are reviewing:

- ♦ Camping permit format and procedures;
- ♦ Infringement Notice Management; and
- ♦ Commercial Tour Operators Debt Management.

Whilst the camping permit review may be "taken over" by the Access Qld project, the review will remain active

The Infringement Notice Working Group is bringing the QPWS Manual into line with QRAM requirements and legislation. This will assist when QRAM transfers to the State Penalties Enforcement Procedures (SPERs) system.

The Commercial Operators Debt Management Working Group will soon formalise procedures for late payment as well as management response procedures. When completed, commercial operators will be advised of the outcomes. The Board were advised that when the working group commenced there were a number of tour operators owing fees. Mr Haig advised that approximately 80% of the money previously owing has now been recovered in full, with one operator making regular repayments under an Agreement. Dr McPhail congratulated staff on the actions taken.

An audit strategy similar to that being prepared for Agents will most likely be implemented for CTO's. The Auditor will include commercial operators when scheduling his work agenda each year.

.....
Geoff Clare - Chairperson

4.6 Update - RAM legislation review. (Mr Hoey)

Mr Hoey advised that a further 12 month extension to the expiry of the Regulation has been granted. The Regulation is now due to expire on 31 August 2001. The temporary secondment of key QPWS staff has negatively impacted on the progress of the review.

Little work is required before consultation with other Departments/agencies can commence. The Cabinet Submission (Authority to Prepare a Bill) is 99% completed.

Changes to legislation fall into two categories - efficiency changes eg moving sections from the Act to the Regulation and other changes identified to make the act more flexible/applicable to both DNR and QPWS. The Board is strongly of the view that the current review which focuses mainly on the "efficiency changes" be concluded ASAP and be kept separate from any consideration needed to more fundamental strategic directions and reforms involving the legislation (see Item 8.1).

Actions/Outcomes

- ♦ A working group be formed including Dr McPhail, Mr Garven and Mr Hoey to ensure that all actions required to comply with the current deadline are met.
- ♦ A workshop involving QPWS and DNR be held to identify broader reforms which may require future amendments to the Act.

5 Operational Reports

5.1 Recreation Areas Management Unit - Central Office

Ms McDonnell provided an overview of the Central Office Operational Report.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.2 Moreton Island

Mr Harper provided an overview of the Moreton Island Operational Report.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.3 Green Island

Mr Hicks provided an overview of the Green Island Operational Report.

Photos on the wave-modelling project conducted by the Queensland Government Hydraulics Laboratory were circulated. The objective of the trial was to establish whether baffles under the jetty would decrease erosion at the end of the seawall. Initial findings suggest this is unlikely. A formal report will be submitted by the QGHL in the near future, with all findings and recommendations.

The Green Island Advisory Committee is developing a three-year Business Plan for Green Island.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.4 Inskip Peninsula

Mr Fullerton provided an overview of the Inskip Peninsula Operational Report.

Revenue is higher than expected.

.....
Geoff Clare - Chairperson

New hybrid waste treatment systems have been installed at the day use toilet and toilet 1 in campground "M.V. Sarawak". The system has had some problems, however the company has been pro-active in resolving these. Mr Peter Harvey, Capital Works Project Officer QPWS and Mr James Haig, Principal Conservation Officer (Great Sandy) will prepare a paper on these issues for distribution.

It was confirmed that another barge operator will commence between Inkip and Hook Points before Christmas.

Issues associated to the Bullock Point barge jetty will be addressed by the Great Sandy Marine Infrastructure Working Party at a meeting to be held in mid December. Whilst the jetty is not in the RAM area, we manage the carpark and associated access.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

5.5 Fraser Island

Mr Fullerton provided an overview of the Fraser Island Operational Report.

A meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2000 with Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village regarding dingo management and education processes within the resort. A Griffith University Honour student is undertaking a project on water quality at lakes on Fraser Island. A presentation will be given in April 2001.

Funding has been provided for three World Heritage projects, however for a smaller allocation of funds than requested: -

- ♦ Lake Allom toilet - requested \$85,250 - allocated \$55,000.
- ♦ Dundubara second ablution - requested \$300,000 - allocated \$150,000.
- ♦ Eli Creek boardwalk - requested \$300,000 - allocated \$200,000.

A proposal (after an evaluation of how the allocated funds can be used) will be submitted for consideration and approval. Of the 10 projects originally submitted for WH funding, projects 1 to 5 in order of priority were unfunded.

Legal representatives of an English backpacker have commenced action against QPWS over a dingo incident at Indian Head in 1998. Mr Fullerton stated that we have a strong case and strongly advised that the department not take the option of settling out of court.

Questions arising from the report - Nil.

6. Budget Issues and reviewed Work Program Proposals 2000/2001.

Ms McDonnell introduced Ms Kim Davis, Assistant Manager, Resource Management, Financial Services, who attended the meeting to answer any questions regarding the Budget 2000/2001.

6.1 Reviewed Budget 2000-2001

- State-wide Summary
- Central Office

Ms McDonnell advised that although the 2000/2001 budget and work programs were approved by the Board at the 8 June 2000 meeting, a shortfall in anticipated carry over funds at the end of financial year has required each area to review the approved budget to identify savings. Financial Services have located errors in financial records relating to assets; resulting in \$112,000 being re-credited to RAM. Further investigations are to be carried out. If revenue does not reach predicted figures, the Board may face a potential over-expenditure of \$75,000.

Ms Davis advised that a process is currently being put in place to ensure that errors do not occur in the future.

Central Office has identified savings totalling \$31,000, this amount has come from saving on floor rental costs and minor savings on Mr Haig's salary. A state-wide summary was not prepared as reviewed figures were not available for the Fraser and Inskip areas but savings by Central Office and Green Island had already resulted in a potential positive carry over balance.

Actions/Outcomes

- Ms McDonnell to prepare regular state-wide summaries to monitor revenue and expenditure for 2000/01.

6.2 Budget issues - Moreton Island Recreation Area

Mr Harper advised revenue for this year is slightly lower than anticipated, however monies may have been coded incorrectly. The figures given in the report are to 30 October 2000 and would not include agent's fees collected in that month.

6.3 Budget issues - Green Island

The carryover for Green Island was approximately \$80,000 less than expected. The revised Annual Work Program for Green Island allows for expenditure on the interpretation facility to be spread over two years, and by deferring projects in the current annual business plan, Green Island can make the necessary savings.

Investigations are being carried out (at the local level) into potential error in system codings when the construction of the ranger residence was completed. May result in the recrediting of appx \$84K.

6.4 Budget issues - Inskip Peninsula

Inskip Peninsula reported an increase in revenue.

6.5 Budget issues - Fraser Island

Fraser Island has increased revenue, which will cover their deficit. There have also been savings with anticipated expenditure for salaries and wages. Further savings will be made by not having contract cleaning of toilets except for Waddy Point Management District and Wanggoolba Creek Barge Landing toilets.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board noted the anticipated savings and endorsed the revised Budget and reviewed Work Program Proposal 2000/2001 as submitted by Green Island.
- The Board thanked Ms Davies for her attendance and assistance.

7 Specific Issues

7.1 Green Island

7.1.1 Deed of Agreement Daikyo

Mr Hicks advised that currently, \$120,000 is spent annually on servicing the day visitor facilities on Green Island. Reef Management is reviewing the costs involved and when completed, a revised (more economic) Agreement will be arranged. Submitted for the information of the Board only.

7.1.2 Green Island Management Plan

The final Draft Management Plan for Green Island Recreation Area was submitted to the Board to endorse for advertising and public comment.

.....
Geoff Clare - Chairperson

Page 7 of 9

Mr Hicks confirmed that latency would be addressed in a Statewide Policy Development process rather than in the plan. The draft plan therefore states 'QPWS and GBRMPA in consultation with stakeholders and other interest groups will develop an allocation policy to address the issue of achieving fair and equitable commercial access within the daily 2240 persons limit.'

Mr Henderson updated members on the AEC Report regarding tourism on protected areas. This Report was presented to the forum in August, and since then has been distributed to QPWS staff, Government Agencies and interested operators. The working group has been expanded to include two more operators.

Mr Hoey highlighted a number of errors in the draft plan presented and recommended that a final rigorous check for errors be made of the document. Section 4 of the plan should be corrected so it is clear this is not a Management Plan for Green Island National Park.

Dr McPhail questioned the correctness of the jurisdictional boundaries shown in Figure 1 of the plan and suggested that Crown Law advice be sought.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board to endorse the draft Green Island Recreation Area Management Plan for advertising and public comment out of session when corrections have been finalised.

7.1.3 Interpretation Centre

A revised project timetable for the Interpretive Facility was submitted, splitting the costs over two financial years. This will facilitate the savings necessary to balance the budget.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board endorsed the revised timetable for the implementation of the Green Island Interpretation Facility project as submitted.

7.2 Fraser Island/Inskip Peninsula (no paper)

Queensland Police have made an application to build a base at Eurong. A contour map of the area will be provided to Queensland Police who will submit a design plan for a single person quarters for our consideration. Fraser Island will benefit from the presence of Police on the island. This will be progressed out of session.

7.3 Moreton Island

7.3.1 Future Police Base on Moreton Island

Mr Harper updated members on a proposal for co-location of a Police station and accommodation at the QPWS management base at Ben Ewa. This agenda item was raised for advice or policy direction by the Board.

Mr James Haig advised he had experienced a similar arrangement in another State, which worked very effectively.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board acknowledged the benefits of proposed co-locations and provided in principle support.
- A steering committee under the Moreton Island Essential Services Group will report on developments and available options for co-location of a Police station.

7.3.2 Cowan Cowan Beach Closure.

Mr Harper summarised the history of the Cowan Cowan beach closure. He confirmed that the Cowan Cowan Residents Association support the revised proposal for the closure. The association would prefer that the new arrangements be in place before Christmas. Mr Harper stated that this will not be possible due to the notification requirements under Native Title.

An education program over the Christmas period will fully inform residents and visitors of the closure. Parking for up to 10 vehicles and trailers will be made available behind the frontal dune. Additional signage will also be erected.

Actions/Outcomes

- The Board endorsed the Cowan Cowan Beach Closure proposal as submitted in the Agenda papers.

8 Other Business

8.1 QPWS Divisional restructure.

General discussions took place on the recent QPWS Divisional restructure with the focus on Mr Hoeys' move from the Management to the Strategy division.. Mr Garven advised that there are many benefits to better integrating the RAM functions into the policy and legislation framework of QPWS. Mr Clare supported this in principle, and reiterated his view as expressed at previous meetings that differences between RAM and broader agency policies (and between the policies of QPWS and DNR) should be avoided unless clearly justified.

It was agreed that there was a need to increase awareness of the versatility of the RAM legislation within both QPWS and DNR.

The Board confirmed that the future meetings be more strategic. To assist with this, Ms McDonnell encouraged each area to forward more operational type issues requiring Board decisions for "out of session" action.

Actions/Outcomes

- Mr Garven to circulate "out of session" a paper scoping possible future directions/applications for RAM legislation. Mr Mike Devery, DNR was nominated as a contact.

9. Close

Next meeting will be held in May 2000 - the exact date to be confirmed.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.50 pm. Mr Clare thanked all Board members and advisers for their attendance.