

## **INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP**

Meeting 01 April 2011, Terrain Board Room, Innisfail Office

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **Present**

Keith Noble (Chair), John Reghenzani, Bob Stewart, Wayne Thomas, Fiona George, Keith Morris, Joe Crawford, Errol Wiles, Ken Atkinson, Bob Brighton, Alec Stubbs, Carole Sweatman. Guests: Russell Gilmour (DEEDI) and Mark Whitnall (Queensland Reconstruction Authority)

Meeting opened 9.35am

#### **1. Welcome**

##### **1.1 Apologies**

Gavan Doull, Daryl Killin, Shawn Hanson, Sue Fairley, Andre Leu, Ian Little, Nola Craig, Michael Nash, Joe Zappala, Steve Bailey, Howard Smith, John Hardaker, Jessica Hitchings, Deb Bass, Neil Sing.

##### **1.2 Meeting opened and minutes of the last meeting**

Keith opened the meeting and acknowledged the effects of Yasi on all present and that these effects were likely to impact on business across the region for some time.

Minutes read and accepted.

The Cairns Institute's role in tropical research and its links to industry and community in the north was clarified. There are opportunities for the outcomes of the research to inform government policy, eg, climate change policy. The IAG should take the opportunity to have input into various projects that result in improved efficiencies and practices.

Neil Cliffe (DEEDI) is running climate change adaptation workshops around the state. John suggested that the IAG could invite Neil Cliffe to present to the forum.

#### **2. Report on last Terrain Board meeting- Keith Noble**

- First meeting with new Director, Local Government, Julia Leu, and Director, Conservation, Peter Rowles, and Carole Sweatman's first meeting as CEO.
- New format for meeting to bring decision making to the beginning of the meeting, while all were fresh
- Strategic planning in northern NRM regions to work more closely together; how can Terrain remain relevant to the whole community?

Carole:

Member concerns about Terrain's mandate – where does it focus its effort?

Match resources with effort, in consultation with members

Terrain, Northern Gulf NRM and Cape York Sustainable Futures – a lot of common issues: for example, monitoring and evaluation is expensive, but necessary - agreed that one system will work with all three NRMs and RRRC, has saved two thirds of cost. Apply collective thinking to intractable issues. Equity across all sectors of our community – how do we deal with addressing that?

Board to be the primary direction for setting Terrain’s priorities.

Encouraged IAG to utilise its very important role in informing Terrain’s Board on critical issues.

- Financial reporting much more intelligible thanks to Corporate Services Manager Michelle Nusse’s changes.
- Reports collated on impacts of Yasi on both agri/horticulture and biodiversity; *Lessons from Larry* very important in formulating response.

**Ken:**

Cleanup operation taking a long time to hit the ground – very frustrating dealing with paperwork and contractor quoting, that results in delays.

**Carole:**

Terrain identified early after Yasi that it needed to be integrally involved in local government recovery processes – represented on both CCRC and HRC committees for recovery.

Rural resilience package announced within 1.5 weeks: \$1.5m (QFF) to assist individual

landholders to access assistance – industry recovery officers; waterways clearing (\$2m) –

Terrain working with RITs and DERM to make sure it happens with available labour; \$9.5m for displaced workers; \$3m for contractors; grants to industry to be clarified; grants to farmers;

\$1m for mental wellbeing

Terrain has received funding to provide skilled workers in sensitive areas - 30 people to work on sites of environmental significance and 20 Green Army workers.

Feral plants and animal control a priority. Alec asked that wild dogs be included.

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) also funded to assist with labour.

Terrain, Northern Gulf, NQ Dry Tropics looking at fire issues into the dry season due to amount of fuel.

Refer to Terrain’s website for fact sheets: Cyclone Yasi Portal

**3. Presentation on cyclone recovery efforts and assistance, including Farm Cleanup. (Russell Gilmour, DEEDI), with Mark Whitnall, Qld Reconstruction Authority.**

Presentation attached.

See also Fact Sheets: *Helping north Queenslanders get back to business* and *Helping north Queenslanders get back to work*

Discussion:

Bureaucracy a deterrent

Limited dollars

Recovery assistance grants vs Farm Cleanup – business decision for landholder. Jobs are prioritised but some may not get done, or may take a long time.

Logistics – less than \$5000, do job straight away; 3 quotes required for larger jobs, but fixed rate quote results in inflated quotes; standing offer arrangement can also be onerous for contractors. Russell is monitoring results of jobs to ascertain reasonable costing. Evolving process – need to be creative: variation process? Ceiling on quotes?

Quality of employees – DEEDI monitoring quality of work; supervision provided, but remains an issue

3m track clearing? Russell to check permit for distance.

#### **4 Sustainable Industries Unit update**

- John gave out notes (full report attached)
- Major activities: Yasi response, reporting for RR3 and submission for RR4/5 – worked with all reef catchment NRMs and industry bodies on RR submission
- Successful project in Caring for our Country \$300,000 R and D over three years for *Minimising off-farm nitrogen and phosphorous in the north Queensland banana industry*
- Two new applications submitted to DAFF to support women in tropical agriculture and the next generation of farmers.
- Project Catalyst – ten cane farms in Tully (5) and the Herbert (5) are progressing with a mentoring program with Michael Waring, funded thru a partnership with Coca Cola. Intentions to expand project both geographically and into other industries
- Terrain's Tablelands office is now at CSIRO in Maunds Rd, Atherton
- Terrain is represented by John on the cyclone economic recovery group Cassowary Coast
- CfoC grants: submission to Commonwealth for flexibility in delivery of current funded programs, particularly RR, and to extend future funding to other crops such as forestry, tropical fruit trees and pineapples
- Terrain offered their staff basic training in psychological responses when dealing with stressed landholders

#### **5 Regional Landcare Facilitator**

Fiona gave a presentation on the role of the Regional Landcare Facilitator.

Presentation attached.

#### **6 Other business**

Wayne expressed concern that neither banana nor cane farmers had been adequately consulted regarding the upcoming WWF visit associated with Project Catalyst.

#### **Next meeting:**

Friday, June 24

Presentation topic for next time TBA

Close 1650