

**INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
88 RANKIN ST INNISFAIL (TERRAIN BOARD ROOM)
02 MARCH 2012**

AGENDA

1. 9.30-9.40 Welcome (Chair, Keith Noble)

- 1.1 Present: Wayne Thomas, Peter Reed, Jessica Hitchings, Sue Fairley, Stephen Olle, Bruce Corcoran, Keith Noble, David Hinchley, John Reghenzani, Neil Sing, Fiona George, Joann Schmider, Ken Atkinson, Allan Dale (guest speaker)
- 1.2 Apologies: Gavan Doull, Howard Smith, Joe Zappala, Roz Burtenshaw, Peter Uechtritz, Michael Nash, Evizel Seymour, Andre Leu, Sam Spina, David Nix, Daryl Killin, Ian Little
- 1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes

2. 9.40-10.40 Strategic discussion on revitalising agriculture in the far north and the role of Regional Development Australia. (Dr Allan Dale, Chair, RDA, Far North Queensland)

IAG very important info mechanism as covers across industries.

Water agenda: Terrain's view was always that must talk at catchment scale to take account of local priorities.

Community Reference Panels (CRP) – independent facilitator (Terrain); CRP has worked well from a community perspective; cohesive; good TO input; almost complete agreement over area/volumetric conversion rate issues (DERM v community) at industry-specific level.

End of process: last CRP meeting scheduled, with its draft report, but technical advisory panel work incomplete – can't do the social impact assessment without that data.

Cancelled the meeting – election called; process has halted, but DERM does not see further involvement for Terrain. Request that CRP report be handed over – refused as other reports were not available.

Now: minutes of meetings have been handed over. CRPs will not have any more input until after election.

AD: personally disappointed in DERM's final handling. Change of management from DERM's side.

BC: volumetric area conversion imp't, but constant highlighting of this over other issues means that environmental flows are sidelined. Env flow data provides the baseline for decision making – has slipped under the radar.

AD: has been at core of discussion at CRP level. Env flows and consumption rates imp't, but from ag perspective the conversion rates must also be right. Precautionary principle applied to allow conservative water take.

JS: (from TO perspective) reinforce that very imp't to have diverse viewpoints to come together to share the discussions with government. Good third party process.

KN: key message that needs to go to the Board.

Introduced RDA. Bilateral discussions with both level of government about regional development issues.

Need strong linkages across the whole north (wet tropics, Cape, Torres; also links with Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday), with industry sectors. IAG brings all industry

sectors together, esp ag industries. Use IAG as forum for discussion about ag development as well as cross industry discussion.

What are the 10 or so big issues that we want to deal with as a region? Consistent messages independent of government in power. V structured involvement with state and feds. Influence at budget level. Need critical mass → collaborate with Tville and MW.

Ag

Resources

Tourism

→ Trying to reposition agriculture as key part of northern economy

To secure existing economy, need to take full advantage of resources boom now.

Infrastructure – what do we really need? Who is going to use it?

SF: How much can RDA influence individual programs and the flow on effect on agriculture.

RIRDC budget has been slashed

Major issues and impact on region (from discussion):

Some issues already raised:

- research and development
- beef industry – processing, abattoir
- greenfields industries – esp Lakeland, Weipa?
- Water efficiencies, use etc

Provisions of infrastructure for and on the back of the boom

- Roads
- Rail
- Airport
- rethink freight

Water, resolve, efficiency, management, new opportunities/security (hort growth). Industry based water use efficiency

New areas

Biosecurity (AQIS)

Research and Development (RIRDC back), new model; retain best of what we have

- Local knowledges
- People on the land
- Link local knowledge with research
- Weak areas of productivity

Industry capability – right industries

Women in ag

Localism in ag – role of RDA in sustainable development

Food security

Regulatory reform

Participate in legislative framework

Forestry

- what future?
- legislative reform

Preservation of key tourism product

- promotion (aviation access)

Regionalising finance via new super eg, Future Fund

Decentralise food distribution and product flows, including export access

Biofuel expansion

Rebuilding training, not losing skills

(from handout)

Agricultural Futures

Climate Adaptation

Tourism and Aviation Futures

Land and Sea Livelihoods

Energy-Water Transformations

Business and the Resources Boom

Remote Service Reform

Social and Cultural Planning and Development

A Tropical Knowledge Economy

Strong Local Governance

Devolved Government

3. 10.40-11.00 Overview of Terrain structure (Carole Sweatman, CEO, Terrain)

3.1 Locked in dates for future meetings:

March 02 (already confirmed) - Innisfail

June 01 (one week before board meeting) - Innisfail

Sept 14 (three weeks before board meeting) – **Tablelands?**

November 16 (just before AGM) - Innisfail.

3.2 Carole introduced David Hinchley as leader of integrated program management. Eg, integrating RR and water quality monitoring under one umbrella.

Traditional owner land management – integrated approach.

NRM Plan to be reviewed – looking at range of land tenures across region. Must take an integrated approach to be able to get best investment opportunities.

Working with John as leader of sustainable industries team.

3.3 Reviewing Terrain structure and investment

- to enable best response to changes in govt funding
- make the most of all the skills, knowledge, partnerships
- equitable contribution across region
- role in building capacity in region – if NRM body were not to exist, what legacy have we left?

- Consultation process with community
- Have done catchment groups
- Next is industry – start thinking about critical issues relevant to your group

What is the role of the IAG and individual role as rep of industry to help Terrain to address some of its current issues?

Critical that information flows both ways Terrain to industry and *industry back to Terrain*.

What is its role in influencing Terrain?

- Research agenda – lots of money going into ag research. Can Terrain influence more of where research is going and the practical implementation of that research?
- What role can Terrain have in working with industry in “knowledge brokering” – link between research and govts
- Where can Terrain have an impact beyond RR?
- Can Terrain help in facilitating and advocating best practice? How?
- What are the critical challenges for industry in the next medium term? How do we work together to meet challenges?

FG: brief look at TOR that encapsulate the IAGs role. Opportunities for greater discussion time?

KN: organise workshops around AGM that offer forum for large issues - re-introduce this.

NS: DERM doing a lot of work that we don't know about – would be good for this group to be made aware of R and D.

SF: invite govt agencies to put info into the e-newsletter; a number of avenues for communication.

KN: IAG has demonstrated its usefulness, particularly with the water resource planning process. Opportunity here to expand on work with RDA that will feed into discussions with Terrain.

NS: IWGs under RR have indicated a willingness and desire to continue that relationship.

By June Board meeting, we are hoping to have idea of how the Terrain structure will look. Basis for future reviews and relationship with other agencies.

3.4 Reef Rescue “Mark 2” – Reef Alliance meeting next week to develop a proposal to Federal govt by May 2012. Needs to look different, but build on the delivery model, specific targets, practice change measurement, alliance across sectors.

3.5 Water Resource Planning dilemma

Difficult position to be a facilitator and a representative of its constituents.

Report presented to DERM but with strong disclaimers. (see above comments from Allan Dale). Terrain very disappointed with final outcome to date. We don't know when the technical reports will be available.

Cynicism expressed by group about final process and likely outcomes.

NS: Local relationship with DERM is good; more difficult the higher up the hierarchy.

David Hinchley:

Introduced himself. Formerly with Terrain as Manager, Community Engagement. Away for three years, working in Gulf with Indig Ranger Programs, fishing industry. Facing lot of issues about local/regional control.

Grew up on farm in NSW – sheep, cherries; worked in forestry for a number of years; community based resource management with ag/forestry and communities.

Key interests:

- Agriculture
- Local management
- Indigenous

Currently gathering information to work out best way to work with everyone, internally and externally. Work closely with John, particularly with regard to the NRM Plan review.

4. 11.00-11.45 Report from Terrain directors (Keith Noble and Ken Atkinson) and update from Sustainable Industries team (John Reghenzani)

Peter Rowles appointed as Terrain rep. on Regional Groups Collective.

Alan Davey RIRDC visited the north to discuss post-Yasi funding/projects with reps from IAG. No resolution on funding opportunities. Funds are still sitting with RIRDC.

WT: why did industry not attend meeting? Was it too soon to bring groups together post-Yasi, still in recovery mode?

KN: How can we resolve/recover the situation? Is there still room to recover this?

SF: Ask Alan Davey whether there is still a possibility to revive this?

ACTION: Sue to report back to IAG

ACTION: FG to ask Alex Stubbs for name of new Agforce Regional Manager and invite them to attend the next IAG meeting.

Report from Terrain directors (Keith Noble and Ken Atkinson)

No Board meeting since December.

January meeting between Terrain NRM, NGRMG, Cape York to discuss opportunities for collaboration and information/cost sharing. Brainstorming session about efficiencies.

Workshop funded thru external planning project.

Timing of future IAG meetings before the Board meeting means opportunity for greater input into Board meeting.

Report from Sustainable Industries (John Reghenzani)

Staff and major activities:

Sustainable Industries Unit amalgamated into new Programs and Knowledge Unit with David Hinchley as manager. John Reghenzani continues as leader of Sustainable Industries.

Deb Bass Reef Rescue coordinator. Fiona George fulltime Regional Landcare Facilitator.

RR5 is now open, closes March 17; trying to get money flowing by August. Earlier reporting deadline is mid-June 2013.

Applications for funding:

JCU Prof Michael Bird Carbon farming futures research

DERM

Reef Protection R and D

Reef Rescue “mark two” in development

Projects:

Project Catalyst
CFOC R and D
RLF

Reef Rescue:

More money to dispense.

Fewer expenses.

Back to 50:50 contribution (from 75:25 due to effects of Yasi)

Internal auditing of RR within Terrain.

BSES contract for extension and training services transferring to other organisations – maintaining RR staff on the ground.

All industries, incl those introduced in 2011-12, will continue in RR5.

5. 11.45-12.30 General Business

5.1.1 “Reef Guardian Farmer” program (Bruce Corcoran)

GBRMPA project to raise awareness of good practices of farmers and let public know; complements Reef Guardians program in school. Also Reef Guardian Fishers.

Identifying interested farmers who may wish to be part of the program. Who qualifies as a “good” farmer?

Follow up as more info becomes available.

5.1.2 Plans for consultation with Industry re review (Neil Sing)

Mixed messages about whether there was to be any consultation with industry and when – somewhat answered by Carole’s presentation earlier.

WT: Would be good for Terrain to produce a *discussion paper* to be sent out to industry for comment. Stakeholders are key.

5.1.3 Further business

Keith invited comments from Stephen Olle regarding tourism.

SO: no particular issues; still in post-Yasi recovery mode.

2012 Year of the Farmer Small Farms Field day proposed for late October – education and knowledge, particularly for small farmers.

Canegrowers Field Day, Innisfail, Thursday April 19. Display and demo of implements typically funded thru Reef Rescue.

Reef regulations audit:

KA: concern over objectivity of assessment of ERMPs and credibility

WT: anecdotal evidence of subjective view of assessing officer

5.2 Next meeting date: Friday, June 01

5.3 Suggestions for next meeting’s presentation

6. Meeting closed 1.05pm