



**Summary of Presentations from the Cairns Regional Council Wallaby
Summit held on April 22, 2010.**

Collated and edited by Dr Martin Cohen, Wild about Australia

The Wallaby Summit, organised and funded by the Cairns Regional Council was held at Tanks Number 3 on April 22, 2010. Nine speakers were invited to present information and opinions on Agile Wallaby populations within the region. At the conclusion of the talks all speakers and other invited guests conducted a workshop to discuss outcomes from the summit and present a series of short and long term recommendations to the Cairns Regional Council.

This document summarises the information discussed and described from the summit and includes a list of the outcomes detailed during the workshop at the conclusion of the talks.

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Introduction

Over the past few years populations of Agile Wallabies (*Macropus agilis*) in several regions of the north-east Queensland coast have become an issue of concern for local governments and residents. As increasing development occurs in previously forested or cleared areas, populations of these wallabies are under increasing pressure from habitat constraints and as a result, wallaby interactions with humans are becoming more frequent.

Aim of Summit

In recent times several options have been proposed in an attempt to solve wallaby management issues, but no firm policy is currently accepted by governments or the local community. This summit has therefore been organised to gather together all relevant parties and stakeholders to discuss and evaluate a range of management options.

After an intense examination of potential management options, local experts, researchers from Universities, representatives from all levels of Government and relevant community groups and other stakeholders will endeavour to develop a series of guidelines that will determine the best way forward for planning and environmental officers to successfully manage local wallaby populations. These guidelines will need to equally consider the interests of government planning schemes, wallaby populations and local residents.

Schedule

The summit was held at the Tanks Centre on Thursday April 22, 2010. Local wildlife biologist, Dr Martin Cohen, was engaged by Cairns Regional Council to facilitate and coordinate the summit. Three main sessions (9.00 am to 10.30am, 11.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.00pm) were held with up to 10 invited speakers from a range of different interest groups, including local and state government, macropod biologists, wildlife rescue and conservation groups, environmental consultants, local planning officers, relevant industry and local community groups. All talks were open to the general public and time will be allotted for questions from the floor.

Management Group

At the completion of all talk sessions, and following afternoon tea, invited people from a wide range of different interest groups discussed the information gathered from the talks and questions and developed guidelines and recommendations for the future direction of wallaby management issues.

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1) Early Morning Session

The wallaby summit commenced with an introduction and welcome from Councillor Forsyth around 8.45am. This was followed by an outline of the day's agenda, objectives and speakers by the summit's facilitator, Dr Martin Cohen (director of Wild about Australia). An outline of Dr Martin Cohen's talk is presented below.

Following Dr Martin Cohen's talk, the summit's keynote speaker, Dr Simon Stirrat, was introduced. Dr Stirrat successfully completed his PhD on Agile Wallaby ecology and management from Charles Darwin University in Darwin. Notes from Dr Simon Stirrat's talk are presented below.

Following Dr Simon Stirrat's talk was a local consultant Guy Chester who has conducted assessments of Wallaby populations at several locations within the region. A summary of Guy Chester's talk is provided below.

The agenda of the summit and brief biographies of speakers is presented in Appendix 1 and a summary of Guy Chester's talk and Agile Wallaby Survey at White Rock report are provided in Appendix 2.

The Wallaby Summit had a break for morning tea.

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'The Cairns Regional Council Wallaby Summit - Background, Purpose and Aims'

By Dr Martin Cohen (Director of Wild about Australia)

Background

- After the highly successful Cassowary Summit hosted by the Wet Tropics Management Authority last September, I suggested to Russell that CRC host a Wallaby Summit to describe and discuss issues associated with Agile Wallaby populations.
- CRC agreed to host the summit and I was subsequently engaged to help organise, host and facilitate this summit.
- While CRC have agreed to host this summit all speakers, including myself, are independent from CRC.
- The only exception is the talk from a planning perspective from CRC in the afternoon session.
- This is a very real attempt by CRC to respond positively to community concern without interference and they are to be commended for allowing us to undertake this process.
- At this stage I would like to express my sincere thanks to Fiona Dix and Russell Wild from CRC for all their help and support in getting this summit to fruition.

Purpose & Aims

- So why are we here?
- First of all I probably don't need to tell anyone here that we currently have large populations of Agile Wallabies at a few locations around Cairns (mainly northern beaches and south side at White Rock).
- Large numbers of wallabies near residential areas can cause concern for residents on several fronts.
- For instance:
 - a) *Large numbers of wallabies move between areas which invariably lead to road kills.*
 - b) *Large numbers of wallabies near houses can lead to incidents (dog attacks on wallabies) or aggression to people (usually as a result of people attempting to feed wild animals).*
 - c) *Large numbers of wallabies in cleared areas earmarked for future development are going to be severely displaced.*
- **Briefly, the purpose of this summit is to examine the current level of knowledge and expertise to address these and other issues with wallabies and their population management in the region.**
- To do this we need to look at several aspects including:
 - a) *What has been done in other parts of Australia where high wallaby numbers cause problems in urban areas;*
 - b) *What base line studies of wallaby populations has been performed in the region; and*
 - c) *What are some of the options available to best manage wallaby populations in the future.*

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- At the completion of the summit it is planned that a series of guidelines and recommendations will be developed and presented to CRC.
- These guidelines and recommendations will hopefully be incorporated into future development management and strategic plans.
- **The ultimate aim is to better protect and manage wallaby populations despite inevitable residential growth and expansion in the region.**

'Agile Wallaby Ecology and Management'

By Dr Simon Stirrat (Macropod Biologist)

Summary

This presentation will provide information on aspects of agile wallaby behaviour and ecology that are relevant to wallaby management in urban and peri-urban environments. The broad dietary range of the wallaby will be discussed as well as behavioural and dietary responses of wallabies to the highly seasonal environment of northern Australia. This information will be presented in the context of a case study of agile wallaby management which can provide as the basis for workshop discussions.

General biology

- Wide geographic range in northern Australia (the wet-dry tropics) and Papua New Guinea.
- Occurs in savanna, forest and open forest habitats.
- Prefers ecotone areas with habitats providing variety of shelter and food.
- Sexually dimorphic - males (25 kg) and females (15 kg).
- One of the least social macropods.

Reproduction

- Breeds year round.
- Capable of producing up to 1.3 young per year.
- Pouch life is around 7-8 months and weaning after 10-12 months.
- Males and females are sexually mature at about 12 and 14 months respectively.

Food preferences

- Agile wallabies are grazers.
- High quality grasses, legumes and other herbaceous species.
- High protein content.
- Eat a range of plants but prefer grasses.

Behaviour

- Spend most of their time feeding and being alert – otherwise they rest.

Home ranges

- Males around 16 ha (up 24 ha).

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- Females around 11 ha (up to 18 ha).
- Foraging and resting areas in close proximity.

Seasonal environment (the wet-dry tropics)

- The wet season, a period of extreme productivity.
- Dry season has very low productivity.
- Unpredictable duration.
- Food quality for herbivores varies considerably throughout the year.
- Quality of preferred foods is much lower in the dry season.

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Response to seasonality

- Diet change in the dry season.
- Change in movement and behaviour.
- Increase in home range size.
- Increase in time spent feeding.
- Reduced vigilance.

Seasonal change in diet

- Highly flexible diet.
- Diet includes more browsing on leaves of forest species.
- Eating flowers and fruits.
- Foraging on leaf litter.
- Digging for roots and bark stripping.

Activity change

- More time foraging (especially during the day in forest areas).
- Less time in vigilance and resting.

Seasonal change in body condition

- Wallabies maintain condition in the wet season.
- In the dry season they lose condition despite the change in diet.
- Body weight declines.

Population regulation

- Population has female biased sex ratio.
- High juvenile mortality.
- Male biased adult mortality.
- Regulated by food limitation.
- Predation occurs but not significant.

Management Issues:

Agile Wallaby management in East Point Reserve

- Numbers increased dramatically in late 1980's.
- Fluctuated seasonally for a number of years.
- Maintained a wet season population of around 1800 animals.

Why so abundant?

- Area was progressively cleared since WWII.
- Created a very suitable habitat.
- Water was introduced in the mid 1980's.
- Re-vegetation schemes introduced more water.
- Some areas of irrigated pasture (not used by entire population).

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Overpopulation

- Class 1. Animals threaten human life or property.
- Conflicts with human interest
- Class 2. Animals depress densities of favoured species.
- Technical management - manipulation to provide desired outcome.
- Class 3. Animals are too numerous for their own good.
- Humans imposing ideas about what is best for the animals rather than letting nature take its course.
- Class 4. System of plant and animals is off its equilibrium.
- Situations where an objective assessment is possible and to which discussion of ecology is central.

Impact of wallabies (perceived problems included)

- Long term damage to vegetation from overgrazing.
- Damage to recreation areas from overgrazing.
- Damage to tree planting schemes (plants and infrastructure).
- Localised soil erosion.
- Animal welfare issue (dog and vehicle kills).

Possible solutions

- Do nothing.
- Remove wallabies.
- Remove water sources or restrict access to water.
- Remove both water and wallabies.
- Fence off areas.
- Improve pasture to sustain wallabies.

Long term solutions

- Manage the reserve as a system.

Management prescription

- Remove water sources.
 - Continue monitoring for effects of management.
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'Agile Wallabies - White Rock and Barron Delta Canelands'

By Guy Chester (Managing Director of EcoSustainAbility)

Summary

During early 2010 wallabies have been surveyed in the White Rock area on behalf of Cairns Regional Council. The presentation outlines the results of repeatable transect surveys and opportunistic surveys of Agile Wallabies in the Area from Blackfellows Creek to the Cairns Golf Course. Conclusions are outlined regarding the areas of higher population densities and a likely population in these areas.

During 2007 Wallabies were surveyed on the Barron River Delta for the local canegrowers as part of a project funded by the Sugar Research Development Corporation. The results of this survey and behaviour modification trials will be presented. An approximate population and range of densities will be discussed. A general description from the literature of the known biology of Agile Wallabies is outlined. As a result of the surveys on the Barron River and White Rock observations of the Wallaby population and their biology and behaviour will be discussed.

Background

- Northern Beaches Wildlife Strategy.
- Barron River Delta Wallaby Survey.
- White Rock Wallaby Survey.

Agile Wallabies

- Opportunistic breeding.
- High fecundity.
- Anoestrous – 3 young in two years.
- Reproduction higher on farmland pastures.
- Males 19 kg, Females 11 kg.
- Breeding at 1.7-2.2 years.
- Gestation 30 days, in pouch 209 days.
- Weaned 10-12 months.
- "Solitary", or small groups, or large groups.
- "Nervous", "Nocturnal".

Wallaby Densities

- NT and QLD.
- 8,17,20,27 /km² Eucalypt Woodland.
- 62 /km² Monsoon Forest.
- 190 /km² Eucalypt forest/floodplain.

Barron River Delta

- Cane Farms – damage to cane.
- Estimate population.
- Investigate "control".
- Sustainable population.

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Observations

- Cold weather affects no's.
- Rain, cloud little effect.
- Distribution changes over season.
- Individuals, small groups, groups 20-50, "mobs" 180+.

Barron Delta

- 94/km².
- 2617 population.

Cane Productivity

- Herbivory of young plants.
- Herbivory of cane stalks.
- Lounge rooms.
- Lost production – 10% = \$318,750.

Wallaby Behaviour Modification

- Fright.
- Flashing Lights.
- Deter/Atrazine – Minor initial decline, then recovery.

Wallaby Control

- Shooting – ethics & safety
- Disease/sterilisation – some theory, no trials.
- 1080.

1080

- Not used for wallabies in QLD as is controversial.
- Tasmania uses it.
- Used in FNQ for pigs.
- Need well targeted baits.
- Issues regarding non target species/pets.

White Rock Transect Surveys

- None in good habitat.
- Cane, Swallows, Golf course.
- Few in residential/parkland.
- Many individuals and "family" groups.
- Few large mobs.

Street Surveys

- All streets.
- Mostly none.

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- Concentrated.
- 581-953.
- Mean = 754.

White Rock Observations

- Many juveniles and many breeding.
- Large mobs, small groups, individuals.
- Dogs, fences and pasture are issues.

Results

- Concentration.
- Rural Residential.
- 0-1600/km².
- Barron Delta.
- 94/km².

White Rock

- Potential population at least.
- 1000-2000+ likely.
- Concentrated in rural residential
- Potential habitat unused
- Potential for population explosion.

Wallabies Summary

- Barron Delta 94/km² – 2600+ population on cane.
 - White Rock 0-1600/km² – 2000+ population on “rural/res”.
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2) Mid Morning Session

The wallaby summit continued after morning tea with a talk from leading local wildlife vet, Annabelle Olsen, about veterinary involvement in wallaby populations. An outline of Annabelle Olsen's talk is presented below.

The next talk was presented by Neil Boland, Director and Principal Environmental Scientist at NRA Environmental Consultants, who filled in at the last moment for Tim Perry, (Principal Ecologist at NRA Environmental Consultants). A summary of Neil Boland's talk is presented below.

Wallaby wildlife rescue expert, John Hungerford (wallabyrescue.com.au) presented the final talk of the mid morning session and his talk is also documented below.

At the conclusion of this talk lunch was taken.

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'Veterinary Involvement in the Cairns Suburban Agile Wallaby Population Dilemma'

By Annabelle Olsen (Principal, Airport Veterinary Surgery and Boongarry Wildlife Services)

Summary

Suburban and semi-rural land development in the Cairns area has degraded and fragmented agile wallaby habitat, while at the same time providing permanent grasslands and water sources to support ever-increasing populations. Dog attacks and vehicle strikes are the primary reasons wallabies are presented to vets. Pouch young are frequently presented for care as a result of adult deaths. Management options for suburban populations will be presented as a basis for community discussion.

Reasons for presentation

- Motor vehicle trauma.
- Dog attack.
- Sick/aged animals.
- Orphaned- possibly also sick/injured.

Veterinary management

- Triage protocol - assessment based on likelihood of returning to 100% fitness; stress of treatment and rehabilitation; access to appropriate facilities for rehabilitation.
- Euthanasia - when and how to euthanase; basis for decision making.
- Treatment - is expertise available to provide necessary treatment; are rehabilitation facilities available; is it fair on the animal to endure lengthy rehabilitation; what cost and who bears this cost (frequently the veterinarian).
- Rehabilitation - adequate and appropriate facilities for the case in hand.
- Relocation considerations - is there an appropriate place for relocation; percentage chance of animal surviving post-release; health/disease implications.

Free living management options

- Do nothing to manage current populations- intervene on a case by case basis to remove aggressive, sick or injured animals as required (following protocols such as for cassowaries or crocodiles).
- Chemical/surgical desexing and release- either muster animals or dart individuals.
- Relocation of surplus animals to an area which can sustain artificially increased population longterm.
- Selective culling- unpalatable but need to weigh up impact of current populations against public opinion.

Logistics

- Cost of each option.
- Difficulty in mustering (not impossible but highly impractical in the suburbs).
- Public perception of darting for sterilization purposes (equipment available, can be used silently from a vehicle or on the ground, immobilization for injection of contraceptive implants or to perform surgery or euthanasia by lethal injection - may be costly in terms of man hours involved and drugs).
- Difficulty finding suitable habitat to relocate and sustain a population.

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- Pressure on the existing population from relocated animals and/or pressure on relocated animals being forced to integrate into a new population.
 - Health issues- potential for introduction of disease into naïve populations.
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Urban Fauna Management Issues

By Neil Boland (Director and Principal Environmental Scientist at NRA Environmental Consultants)

Summary

This talk will discuss the typical direct and indirect impacts of urban development on fauna habitat. The positive and negative aspects of wildlife living in close association with humans in an urban context. Behavioural changes that may affect wild life populations isolated in an urban environment. Appropriate management responses in the context of the pest/resource dichotomy that generally occurs when dealing with urban wildlife populations.

What is the Problem - Problems associated with fauna

- Fauna stranded on islands due to urban encroachment.
- Overabundant fauna due to resources offered by urban areas (e.g. watering points, discarded food).
- Increase in populations of those species which can displace and out-compete native species in an urban setting (i.e. myna birds).

How Does it Happen - Human demographic changes

- Previously boundaries between urban, rural and natural areas were sharply defined.
- More recently remnant wildlife habitat is frequently retained in new urban areas as part of a green space mosaic.
- The use of urban remnants as recreational areas is increasing, placing greater pressure on habitats and wildlife.
- Urban development has been extensive enough to completely replace some habitats.
- People's perceptions and desires relating to the environment in which they live have changed.
- Result - wildlife is largely isolated (completely or seasonally) and has no choice but to use the available resources, including those in developed areas.

Impacts on Fauna

- Urban wildlife is often occupying sub-optimal habitat.
- Human waste can become a significant food resource –may lead directly to conflicts.
- Resources may be dispersed and separated by hostile areas (e.g. roads and gardens).
- Increased risk of disease and infection in stressed populations.
- Genetic isolation of populations -potential inbreeding.
- Stress related behavioural changes: aggregated distribution that is focused on communal feeding sites (e.g. big mobs of wallabies that graze on grassy sites at dusk and dawn).
- Juveniles lose dispersal opportunities - this can lead to dramatic fluctuations in population and related stress and disease during periods of high population density and aggressive behaviour.
- Animals' perception of humans can change –if animals are regularly fed they may come to see humans as a competitive threat.
- Direct mortality –vehicles hitting wildlife as it crosses roads.

Impacts on People - Negative interactions

- Vehicle collisions –damage to property and threat to life.

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- Aggression –towards humans and pets from wild animals seeking access to food.
- Property/garden/crop damage –from foraging or nesting wildlife
- Emotional stress –from observing injured or starving wildlife or witnessing culls.
- Disease and Parasites -increased risk of zoonoses, e.g. from bats and ticks.
- Economic -cost of managing wildlife populations, property damage, cost of relocations, animal control call-outs, rehabilitation of injured wildlife.
- Community friction – disagreement regarding management options, friction between environmental managers and public.
- Loss of amenity – increased noise from wildlife (i.e. large flocks of noisy parrots or flying fox colonies), possible reduction in local biodiversity through one species outcompeting others.

The Management Issues

- Blurred line between maintaining a valuable resource and managing a nuisance.
- Urban wildlife has an ecological carrying capacity and a cultural carrying capacity (this will vary from person to person).
- It is not about managing a single species.
- The cultural carrying capacity may be lower than the ecological.
- Wildlife's reaction (population decline) to exceeding ecological carrying capacity is likely to be slower than the human reaction to its exceeding the cultural carrying capacity.
- A problem with the perception of urban wildlife as an endangered resources or a pest is that management is commonly only called for when the wildlife population is at a level that is too low (endangered resource) or too high (pest) to allow easy management.
- The aim of management should be: to manage urban wildlife in general
- To maintain the population between the 2 extremes.
- To maintain an environment in which human wildlife interactions are more likely to be positive than negative.

Management Plan Case Study

The Yarra Urban Wildlife Management Plan provides a working model. It covers 12 key elements:

- Protection of terrestrial fauna habitats.
- Protection of in-stream habitat and off-stream wetlands.
- Revegetation (consistent with EVCs) to augment habitat and improve habitat link.
- Artificial nest boxes.
- Fauna friendly lighting.
- Weed Management.
- Securing fauna habitat through overlays and zoning.
- Feral animal control (including foxes, feral cats and rabbits).
- Overabundant/aggressive fauna (native & exotic).
- Domestic animal control.
- User related issues (recreational activities).
- Education and community engagement.

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Site specific habitat enhancements and overall management goals are provided in the document. Key legislation and policy that may contribute to achieving conservation outcomes are summarised. Suggestions made for coordination amongst relevant stakeholders.

Where to From Here - Goals

- Potential elements of an urban wildlife management plan for our region.
- Ensure community is accepting of continued presences and understand implications (e.g. damage to gardens, periodic culls).
- Ensure that native wildlife can survive in a modified urban environment – habitat requirements met.
- Encourage positive interactions between humans and urban wildlife.
- Aim for low level continuous maintenance (maintaining the population below the cultural carrying capacity but above the endangered level).
- Ideally find management strategies that are self-maintaining – e.g. do not require continuous input of resources to maintain the population at the optimum level.

Where to from here - One possible option

- Cooper DW, 2004.
- Should immunocontraception be used for wildlife population management? *Australian Mammalogy* 26: 61-65. *Summary*
- For most populations it is possible to give a set of requirements for any population regulation method.

It must be:

- Feasible, i.e. it will actually stabilize or reduce numbers over long periods.
- Cost-effective, i.e. the money available is usually quite limited, even in rich countries.
- Humane, i.e. the animals themselves should not suffer and violence should be avoided.
- Without side effects, i.e. other components of the ecological system in which the species lives should not be adversely affected.
- Internationally acceptable, i.e. the management method adopted should not affect the same or similar species in other countries. (This is especially true of any immunocontraceptive spread by a live vector).

Where to from here -Actions required/Elements of Management Strategy

Community Buy-in / Endorsement

- Surveys
- Community programs

Habitat Needs

- Identify habitat requirements for specific species (range of habitats) and area of remaining habitat.
- Identify corridors.
- Identify problems created by or for animals moving between habitat areas (e.g. from shelter areas to forage areas, this is significant for the wallaby issue -they may shelter during the day in pockets of dense remnant vegetation and come out in the evening and/or early morning to graze on mowed or slashed areas) or congregate in particular areas.

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- Identify and address threats to fauna habitat (e.g. weed invasion, inappropriate fire regime, predation pressure, disturbance during breeding).
- Identify opportunities for potential habitat improvement and protection.
- Review existing control methods of pest animal species and provide recommendations for updating where required.
- Recognize and manage for issues that occur at particular times of the year (e.g. flowering or fruiting of forage plants, nesting season, seasonal migrations).
- Understand remnant ecology and threats to other native species from overpopulation.

Behavioural Issues

- Identify life history responses to peri-urban conditions (e.g. changes to breeding potential).
- Identify behavioural characteristics / potential interactions (positive and negative) with humans – identify compatible land uses.
- Provide advice and assistance to the community in regard to urban wildlife issues.
- Provision for community education and changing behaviour – i.e. “Living with...” fact sheets.
- Promote an appreciation and acceptance of wildlife by the community, and a realistic attitude to its management.

Planning Mechanisms

- Develop specific planning overlays or conditions for management.
 - Identify infrastructure needs (e.g. standards for road corridor upgrades).
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'WHY? – Wallabies are people to'

John Hungerford (wallabyrescue.com.au)

Summary

I will be detailing my experiences raising the animals over the past 10 years. The presentation will include a 4min slideshow. You can preview a copy of this on my website at

http://www.wallabyrescue.com.au/wallaby_summit.htm

The Facts

- In 2009, FNQ Wildlife Rescue received 1635 native animals into care.
- Of these, 109 were Agile Wallabies – and these are only the ones that were reported.

Wallabies:

- Need homes.
- Have families.
- Feel pain.
- Form part of the ecosystem.

Wallabies have been forced to:

- 'Move on'.
- Adapt to new areas & diets.
- Contend with dogs & humans.
- Congregate in 'safe' areas.
- Take risks to feed.

What caused the issue?

- Greedy Developers.
- Impotent Government.
- Lack of foresight & planning.
- Too much 'theory' not enough 'practice'.

What has been done:

- 'Token' plans & strategies.
- 'Token' studies.
- Some fences & underpasses.
- Signage.

Cairns relies on tourism - Correct?

- "Together, we can show the world why there's nothing like Australia".

What must be done:

- Manage existing populations.

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- More effective road deterrents.
- Better, more effective signage.
- Create conservation parks.
- Public education.

How?

- More community involvement.
- Better & effective Govt support.
- Conservation levy for land.
- Make developers accountable.
- Awareness campaign.

Are you up to this?

- There is no quick and easy fix.
- Can you rise to the challenge?
- If so, then get involved!

Less talk – more action. Protect our precious wildlife.

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3) Early Afternoon Session

After lunch whole range of different talks were presented at the Wallaby Summit. The first talk provided the State Government perspective and was presented by Hayden Ferguson who is the Senior Project Officer in the Wildlife Branch from Queensland Parks and Wildlife. A talk from Richie Falla, Senior Field Officer at the Mulgrave Mill, described the problems of wallabies on cane farming. This talk was followed Sarah Hoyle, Coordinator of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, who discussed policy and management policies that could increase the efficiency of wallaby and wildlife conservation. A summary of these talks is provided below. The final talks were from Paul Cohen, Senior Strategic Planner at Cairns Regional Council and Barry Fitzsimmons gave a brief overview and described the benefits of the use of Swarflex road reflectors on reducing wallaby road kill.

The session and formal presentation component of the summit was concluded with a question and answer session. Afternoon tea followed.

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'Urban wallabies – the role of the Department of Environment and Resource Management'

By Hayden Ferguson (Senior Project Officer, Wildlife Branch, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

Summary

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the state government agency vested with the conservation of nature. The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* has provisions that protect native wildlife and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is the principle division within DERM that is engaged in wildlife management. Agile wallabies are just one of a range of species that is impacted by habitat loss and urban development and resolutions to these issues are often complex. The presentation aims to clarify the legislation as it relates to the protected species and the role of DERM in managing urban wallabies.

- The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the state government agency vested with the conservation of nature.
- The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* has provisions that protect native wildlife and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is the principle division within DERM that is engaged in wildlife management.
- Agile wallabies are just one of a range of species that is impacted by habitat loss and urban development and resolutions to these issues are often complex.
- The presentation aims to clarify the legislation as it relates to the protected species and the role of DERM in managing urban wallabies.

- Generic Urban Wildlife Threats – well documented.
- Habitat Loss and Fragmentation.
- Domestic and Feral Animals.
- Vehicle Strikes.
- Introduced Toxic Plant Species.
- Habituation and Feeding.

- Green Corridors and Considered Urban Planning.
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Centres.
- Awareness and Interpretation Programmes.
- Legislative Protection.
- "Eco Friendly" Development.
- Iconic and Appealing To Tourists.

- Primarily involved with wildlife conflict and response.
- Crocodile – flying fox – cassowary and wallaby.
- Liaison with interest and action groups regarding issues of local concern.
- Contribution to policy formulation.

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- Seasonal fluctuations in response to wildlife conflict issues.
 - Droppings in public areas – parks and sports grounds.
 - Animals approaching public for food.
 - Animals injuring persons and pets.
 - Injured and rehabilitated and released animals in contact with public
 - Damage to gardens – public and private.
 - Harassment and injury by dogs.
 - Black spots in terms of road kills.
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- DERM can facilitate the processing of the permit by liaising with the client in regards to how to manage the problem, and/or what the best options are in regards to dealing with the animals ie: how can relocate, where to etc
 - DERM does not usually engage in the manipulation of wildlife populations unless the species is threatened or dangerous (e.g. crocodiles, cassowaries etc).

Permits that would provide for dealing with conflicts:

- DMP.
 - Lethal take.
 - Removal and relocation.
 - Permit durations (generally 6 months, however are provisions under an approved property management plan for the permit to be for 3 years).
 - Applicant can contract out activity, and have contractors authorised under their permit.
 - Processing time frames (40 business days, pending no further information requests).
 - All applications are subject to assessment (which may require further information to further consider application).
 - Decision signed off by delegate.
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Summary of Presentations from the Cairns Regional Council Wallaby Summit held on April 22, 2010

'Wallaby Impacts on Barron Delta Cane Farms'

By Richie Falla (Senior Field Officer, Mulgrave Central Mill)

The presentation will follow the increase in wallaby damage over the past ten years, and describe the current levels of damage and the economic losses incurred.

General theme:

- Changes in cane farming in the Barron over the years, and corresponding changes in the wallaby populations, subsequent damage, and control methods.
- Cane growing in this locality probably commenced in the 1920's, before which much of the Barron Delta was naturally vegetated, more with scrub and swamp than rainforest.
- Smaller farms than now, more labour intensive, more people resident on each farm, both in the harvesting season (cutting gangs) and year-round, with permanent farm hands employed on most farms.
- More dogs roaming the farms.
- Cane burnt before and after harvesting.
- Paddocks worked with machinery very often to keep down weeds, at the same time reducing 'green pickings' in the cane fields.
- Also, no residential areas between the cane fields and the mountains.
- In the nineteen seventies, Mechanical Cane Harvesting became more common.
- This was the start of a trend toward greater mechanisation in cane farming, which has had a consequence of less people being on each farm.
- In the nineteen eighties, Green Cane Trash Blanketing was introduced with the result that there were less cane fires.
- The eighties and nineties saw a substantial increase in residential subdivision along the foothills around the Barron.

Up to this point, wallaby populations were essentially:

- Migratory – i.e. moving between the Delta and the foothills, depending on the seasonal conditions:
or
- Permanent – i.e. residing in small harbourage areas such as Trinity Beach foothills (Earl's Hill); Machans/Holloways mangroves, or Freshwater cattle paddocks.

2001-2003 there were two important events:

- Very dry conditions, encouraging wallabies to leave the foothills for the Delta
- Very few corridors of connection between the Delta and the foothills.
- As a consequence, larger numbers of wallabies stayed on the floodplain on a permanent basis, and became 'adapted' to living in canfields, which offered about the only food available. (There is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that numbers of animals were released from the defunct tourist facility at Smithfield.)

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With the closure of the connections to the foothills, the wallabies are now a large resident population on the floodplain.

- “Bull-rings”: knock down mature cane to create ‘living spaces’ within the crop.
- Eat (and kill) young stems of cane, not only young leaves.
- Pull newly-planted cane out of the ground, killing it.
- Graze small cane to the ground, with hundreds of animals creating large bare areas.

Costs:

- For the 2009 crop, lost production cane was at least \$350,000.
- Same for the 2010 crop, plus additional costs for plant cane with severe damage, where not only the crop is reduced severely but planting costs of \$3000/ha are forfeited.
- These costs are a significant impact on revenue for growers and miller alike.
- As a result of continuing damage from these animals, at least one cane farm has gone out of production.
- In addition, severe damage is being caused to a minor crop on the floodplain, watermelons. This loss is in the tens of thousands of dollars. While horticultural cropping is currently at a low level, the Barron floodplain is well suited to small crops as a complement to the broad-acre cane farming. Wallaby damage will be a severe restriction on future small cropping.

Current Controls:

Shooting

- Currently Damage Mitigation Permits are issued to growers by QPWS.
- These permits allow growers to take up to 50 animals per permit, depending on levels of damage.
- Given that there may be up to ten growers eligible to obtain permits, this level of culling may appear high, but it generally takes some time to reach the permit limit.
- Also, the number culled is very small compared to the population size as collated during the period of the SRDC project.
- Shooting of the animals is a reasonably difficult task for growers given the numbers of walkers, horse-riders etc who traverse many of the cane farms.

Dogs

- The presence of dogs on farms appears to reduce levels of damage in the immediate vicinity, not due to animals being killed by dogs but due to the wallabies being ‘frightened’ from the area.
- This only moves the problem elsewhere.

Harbourage

- The existence of large areas abandoned from cane provides serious harbourage opportunities for populations to shelter and breed.
 - For example: sand mining areas; Motoworld (ex-farm approved for trail bikes, BMX, etc).
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Summary of Presentations from the Cairns Regional Council Wallaby Summit held on April 22, 2010

'Planning for Wallabies: Utilising the policy and planning framework to address wallaby conservation and management in southern Cairns'

By Sarah Hoyle (Coordinator of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre)

Summary

This presentation will identify areas of disparity and possible measures to increase the efficacy of wallaby conservation and management policies. Specifically, this presentation will focus on policies which affect the southern zone of the Council and then extrapolate these recommendations to the larger Council area and region.

Population Growth

- Cairns is one of the fastest growing Local Government Areas in the State, with a 3.6% increase in the population between 2004-2009 (source: ABS).
- If this trend continues, this will equate to a residential population of over 210,000 by 2026.
- About three-quarters of the region's projected population growth, will principally occur within the Southern Growth Corridor (now known as Mount Peter) between Edmonton and Gordonvale, and on the northern beaches.
- This follows massive growth in the region since the 1980's of over 100,000 people. Most move to the region because of the natural environment and come from large urban centres.
- Throughout the Wet Tropics region, urban expansion and intensive agriculture has severely fragmented and degraded landscapes outside protected areas, effectively confining wildlife to habitat 'islands'.
- These are often too small to support viable populations and preventing wildlife from moving from one protected area to the next.
- Instead, as we have already heard today, where animals are able to and have no other option, they adapt to the urban environment as best they can – hence the effect of large wallaby populations on cane farms, golf courses, sporting fields and so on.
- Therefore wildlife management issue in urban areas will only become more pressing.
- We support today's initiative and the development of the Cairns Southern Fringe Wildlife Management Strategy.
- We hope that these initiatives will learn from the mistakes during development of northern Cairns – where a Wallaby Management Strategy was prepared after it was found that wallabies were being adversely affected by urban development due to limited planning for their conservation and management (i.e. as evidenced by localised road kill increase, wallabies showing signs of distress, inappropriate corridors).
- CAFNEC does not believe the issues faced in the southern corridor are much different from those on the northern beaches – just at a different stage.
- However, although we support this initiative we note the huge number of plans that already exist for this region, which have never been implemented.
- We therefore also ask that this plan is followed up with the resources and support required to ensure it is effectively implemented.

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- We would also like to note that although today's discussions are focused on wallabies that the issue of wildlife management in an urban area is much broader and includes other species of concern including bats, quolls, many bird species, cassowaries and so on.

Planning and Management

- CAFNEC has long felt that state and local government regulatory frameworks are inadequate if we are to preserve wildlife in and around our urban and peri-urban landscapes.
- It is also rare to find a local government culture that places wildlife and biodiversity protection at the forefront of the day to day planning development a
- Assessment process. The continuing disappearance of the Cassowary from the Cairns landscape and this current wallaby dilemma are the fruits of this policy and implementation failure.
- It is still true that when push comes to shove, the needs of wildlife all too often take a back seat.
- This must change.

There are two general options to manage wallabies (and wildlife generally) within the urban area:

1. Push out of the urban zone and into surrounding habitat.
2. Incorporate into the urban zone.

Although not specifically stated in either North Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031 and Cairns Plan, both identify the need for:

- wildlife corridors through urban areas,
- conserving biodiversity and natural environment in urban areas, and
- continuing the community's involvement in managing biodiversity and wildlife

FNQ Regional Plan

- For those who are not aware, the FNQ Regional Plan is a statutory instrument finalised in early 2009, whose policies must be reflected in local area plans.
- The Cairns Plan is this region's local area plan, which is currently under review by the Council.
- The FNQ Regional Plan 2009-2031 provides the beginnings of a path to a regional planning approach in the far north. It sets an urban footprint to prevent urban sprawl as well as potentially increasing the protection to some threatened species through the identification of strategic rehabilitation areas that would link or increase the resilience of wildlife corridors.
- Within the urban footprint between White Rock and Edmonton however, there are very small strategic corridors along some creeks, but little else.
- These areas of high ecological significance do not appear to be properly connected and do not address the Bruce Highway crossing.

The Regional Plan Biodiversity Conservation Objective (1.1) which must be reflected in our local government planning scheme states:

- "Protect, manage and enhance the extent, diversity, condition and connectivity of the region's natural areas to maintain ecological integrity and processes, reverse biodiversity decline and increase resilience to the expected impacts of climate change."
- A broad aim of the Regional Plan is to protect and enhance the region's natural environment, biodiversity and natural resources.

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Under the Regional Plans Strategic Directions in *Maintaining connectivity*:

- “Fragmentation of areas of ecological significance needs to be avoided” and that “wildlife corridors of state and regional significance that provide north-south and east west connections” should be provided.

An aim of the Cairns Corporate Plan is to:

- “Develop innovative arrangements and better relationships to integrate the efforts of all levels of Government and private landowners for biodiversity conservation activity on private land; aim for maximum retention of natural vegetated areas”.
- Whilst specifically In the Cairns Plan – White Rock to Edmonton District (Mar 2009) - Riparian corridors should be retained and rehabilitated.
- Similarly, the backdrop of the hillslopes should be protected, with the rehabilitation of degraded areas where opportunities arise. However there is no specific reference to wildlife corridors.

At present in the southern corridor:

- Existing wildlife corridors do not lead to grassland, rather to the rainforest or mangroves.
- Grassland available is cane farm land anyway.
- Most habitat already lost in the local area – either already cane farms or urban development.

Our view is that relocating wallabies is not generally successful due to:

- “Cost”.
- Stress.
- The high probability of mortality of displaced animals being placed into areas already containing existing populations of wallabies.

As you would be aware a northern beaches area management strategy was developed but it appears many of the recommendations have not been implemented.

- What has happened to the nine underpasses recommended in the BRDMCWMS?? (In 2007 only 1 had been installed).
- Has the overlay mapping of connectivity corridors been brought into use during Development Assessment phase? If so, have they resulted in the preservation of these corridors?
- Who is working on the “development of a brochure for Cairns’ residents to assist them with re-establishing fauna friendly landscaping and fencing in areas adjacent to important habitat and connectivity corridors”?
- Have the changes and amendments to standard conditions for Material Change of Use and Reconfiguring a Lot for sites which include remnant vegetation been made?

Possible measures/ issues to consider:

- What do we do from here?

Wildlife corridors and conservation reserves

- The first step must be to identify strategic wildlife corridors and open areas which wallabies will be allowed into and ensure these are implemented.

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- These could include environmental reserves on public and/or private land within the urban environment, joined by corridors to adjacent remnant habitat (both coastal and inland).
- We therefore are very supportive of processes such as the Mt Peter Master Plan and Strategic Assessment constraints mapping.
- However management of wallabies and other wildlife in the urban areas must be well-resourced and have regulatory “teeth”.
- The management should also be supported by a good understanding of the ecological and cultural carrying capacity and population management principles.

Legislative/Policy reform

- Currently the Council has an inability to preserve corridors (even if they have been identified under the Regional Plan) due to:
 - Pre-existing approvals.
 - The right to of new applicants to have their development assessed under a superseded planning scheme if it is less than two years old.
 - The financial constraints that mean Councils must take large financial risks to litigate against inappropriate developments.
- Therefore rigorous statutory protection for critical wildlife habitat and corridors in urban areas and urban fringes is required to give Councils greater ability and support to protect strategic corridors without major expense to the Council or ratepayers.

Potential reforms therefore should include:

State Government

- Provide dedicated statutory protection of wildlife corridors identified in the FNQ Regional Plan 2009-2031, triggered by development assessment and environmental planning processes.
- Implement appropriate conservation management arrangements for private land holders including conservation covenants, cooperative management and other agreements, land for wildlife, Nature Refuges.
- A rapid sunseting of old and unused approvals. Currently, we are all but stuck with old, ill-advised approvals and very few means to invalidate, or even update them, against current legislative requirements.
- Greater controls on the ability of property owners to lodge development applications under superseded planning schemes.

Local Government

- Provide rates-based incentives for voluntary conservation measures on freehold land, especially in strategic wildlife corridors.

Fauna sensitive road design

- Major roads, including the Bruce Highway and potential upgrades, will pose a huge threat to wallaby numbers in the southern corridor unless appropriate passes are created and populations are fenced off from major roadways.

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- This will require investment from the Department of Main Roads as well as Council.
- The jury is still out on whether best practice design is – and whether they use these.

1) Conduct research to identify optimum conditions to encourage wallaby usage of road crossings (underpasses/overpasses)

- At Compton Rd, Brisbane, red-necked wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus* and swamp wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* recorded regular use of overpass.
- How will wallabies be encouraged to utilise crossings?
- If wallabies are funnelled towards these crossings, how far must the fencing extend and are 'returns' able to be installed? Note that in northern Cairns, a fence to funnel wallabies into a culvert was erected on one side of the road only, thereby still causing road kill (Goosem pers. comm. as in BRDMCWMS).
- lower speed limits in areas where wallabies are known to cross.

2) Conduct research to ascertain location for crossings

- Has a study on wallaby crossings been done yet?
- What has happened to the nine recommended to be installed in the BRDMCWMS? As far as we are aware only one crossing has been built.

3) How wide must habitat corridors be and what is the optimum vegetation?

- The corridors must be kept free of weeds to increase their efficacy.
- Who will pay for and do the rehabilitation of existing corridors?
- Insufficient food species may decrease usage of corridors by wallabies (such as Stage 2 at Bluewater, Trinity Beach).

4) Are changes required to vegetation along roadsides to discourage wallabies from going too close to roadsides? Do fast roadways need to be fenced - Such as the Bruce Highway?

Community Awareness/Involvement

- Work with Cane Growers and their representatives to ensure crop protection whilst also managing wallaby populations humanely. (May need population control as a last resort).
- Raise awareness of the community's obligations under *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and its Regulations.
- Encourage private landholders to install "fauna friendly landscaping and fencing in areas adjacent to important habitat and connectivity corridors" (as recommended in BRDMCWMS).
- Encourage private landholders to enter into conservation management agreements supported by Local or state government incentives.

Final Remarks

- As in much of Qld, urban development in this region has preceded with little or no thought to the long term needs of local wildlife populations.
- Only now when the problem has reached crisis point do the implications of these past decisions become apparent.

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- Unless wildlife corridors are identified and protected from development we will see this pattern repeated over and over again.
 - Therefore CAFNEC would very much like to see wildlife corridors given the same level of rigorous statutory protection that is given to transport corridors.
 - Unless this situation is remedied these important corridors will be compromised out of existence.
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4) Late Afternoon Session

The session and formal presentation component of the summit was concluded prior to afternoon tea and the late afternoon session consisted of a workshop with many of the day's speakers and other invited guests. The aim of the workshop was to examine the information shared during the summit and develop and present to Cairns Regional Council a series of recommendations, both short term and long term, for implementation

Present at the workshop were:

Dr Martin Cohen (Wild about Australia)

Dr Simon Stirrat (Macropod Biologist)

Guy Chester (EcoSustainAbility)

Neil Boland (NRA Environmental Consultants)

Annabelle Olsen (Airport Veterinary Services & Boongarry Wildlife Services)

Hayden Ferguson (QPWS)

Sarah Hoyle (CAFNEC)

John Hungerford (Wallaby Rescue)

Adam Maclean (CSIRO)

Barry Fitzgibbon (citizen)

Sarah Gill (Local veterinarian)

Russell Wild (CRC)

Fiona Dix (CRC)

A summary of the workshop outcomes are provided below.

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Outcomes from Workshop

Priority	Action	Responsibility
1	Short term actions. Negotiate with the sporting organisations at the northern beaches (Marlin Coast Rangers) and White Rock (Leichardt). CRC and QPWS to investigate use of deterrents and installation of fencing to keep wallabies off playing fields.	Russell Wild CRC Hayden Ferguson QPWS
2	Reflector trial along beaches road. Discussed need to run a trial in Cairns along Machans, Holloways and Yorkeys Knob Road. Reflectors to be installed along sections with a control area to gauge effectiveness of the reflectors.	Guy Chester Barry Fitzsimmons Martin Cohen
3	Residential Survey and ongoing surveys to indicate growth and movement of wallabies in southern suburbs.	Russell Wild Fiona Dix
4	Land Management and resident's tool kit. Living with wallabies publication	Sarah Hoyle John Hungerford Martin Cohen
5	Conservation Parks. Cattana, Mount Peter - ensure connectivity	Paul Cohen and UWAG
6	Urban Wildlife Advisory Group	All
7	Review BDMCWS	UWAG

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Appendix 1: Agenda and Brief Biographies of Speakers

EARLY MORNING SESSION		
8.30 am	Welcome	Cairns Regional Council
8.45 am	Outline of agenda & objectives	Dr Martin Cohen
9.00 – 9.45 am	<p>Ecology and management of agile wallabies – a case study</p> <p>This presentation will provide information on aspects of agile wallaby behaviour and ecology that are relevant to wallaby management in urban and peri-urban environments. The broad dietary range of the wallaby will be discussed as well as behavioural and dietary responses of wallabies to the highly seasonal environment of northern Australia. This information will be presented in the context of a case study of agile wallaby management which can provide as the basis for workshop discussions.</p>	Dr Simon Stirrat
9.45 – 10.30 am	<p>Agile Wallaby Populations Around Cairns – White Rock and Barron River</p> <p>During early 2010 wallabies have been surveyed in the White Rock area on behalf of Cairns Regional Council. The presentation outlines the results of repeatable transect surveys and opportunistic surveys of Agile Wallabies in the Area from Blackfellows Creek to the Cairns Golf Course. Conclusions are outlined regarding the areas of higher population densities and a likely population in these areas.</p> <p>During 2007 Wallabies were surveyed on the Barron River Delta for the local canegrowers as part of a project funded by the Sugar Research Development Corporation. The results of this survey and behaviour modification trials will be presented. An approximate population and range of densities will be discussed.</p> <p>A general description from the literature of the known biology of Agile Wallabies is outlined. As a result of the surveys on the Barron River and White Rock observations of the Wallaby population and their biology and behaviour will be discussed.</p>	Guy Chester
10.30 – 11.00 am	MORNING TEA	

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LATE MORNING SESSION		
11.00 – 11.20 am	<p>Veterinary involvement in the Cairns suburban Agile Wallaby population dilemma</p> <p>Suburban and semi-rural land development in the Cairns area has degraded and fragmented agile wallaby habitat, while at the same time providing permanent grasslands and water sources to support ever-increasing populations. Dog attacks and vehicle strikes are the primary reasons wallabies are presented to vets. Pouch young are frequently presented for care as a result of adult deaths. Management options for suburban populations will be presented as a basis for community discussion.</p>	Annabelle Olsson
11.20 – 11.40 am	<p>Urban Fauna Management Issues</p> <p>This talk will discuss the typical direct and indirect impacts of urban development on fauna habitat. The positive and negative aspects of wildlife living in close association with humans in an urban context. Behavioural changes that may affect wild life populations isolated in an urban environment. Appropriate management responses in the context of the pest/resource dichotomy that generally occurs when dealing with urban wildlife populations.</p>	Tim Perry
11.40 – 12.00 pm	<p>WHY? – Wallabies are people to.</p> <p>I will be detailing my experiences raising the animals over the past 10 years. The presentation will include a 4min slideshow. You can preview a copy of this on my website at http://www.wallabyrescue.com.au/wallaby_summit.htm .</p>	John Hungerford
12.00 – 1.00 pm	LUNCH	

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AFTERNOON SESSION		
1.00 – 1.20 pm	<p>Urban wallabies – the role of the Department of Environment and Resource Management</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the state government agency vested with the conservation of nature. The <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> has provisions that protect native wildlife and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is the principle division within DERM that is engaged in wildlife management. Agile wallabies are just one of a range of species that is impacted by habitat loss and urban development and resolutions to these issues are often complex. The presentation aims to clarify the legislation as it relates to the protected species and the role of DERM in managing urban wallabies.</p>	Hayden Ferguson
1.20 – 1.40 pm	<p>Wallaby Impacts on Barron Delta Cane Farms</p> <p>The presentation will follow the increase in wallaby damage over the past ten years, and describe the current levels of damage and the economic losses incurred.</p>	Alan Hopkins
1.40 – 2.00 pm	<p>Planning for Wallabies: Utilising the policy and planning framework to address wallaby conservation and management in southern Cairns</p> <p>This presentation will identify areas of disparity and possible measures to increase the efficacy of wallaby conservation and management policies. Specifically, this presentation will focus on policies which affect the southern zone of the Council and then extrapolate these recommendations to the larger Council area and region.</p>	Sarah Hoyle
2.00 – 2.20 pm		Cairns Regional Council
2.20 – 2.40	Wrap up of talks & questions	Dr Martin Cohen
2.40 – 3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.00 - 5.00 pm	Panel of Experts discussion	

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BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Martin Cohen (Director, Wild about Australia)

Martin Cohen has worked as a zoologist and wildlife commentator in Australia's tropics for over 20 years. After successfully completing a PhD in Zoology, Martin has guided eco-tours all over Australia, written countless popular wildlife articles, worked with several relevant community groups and presented fascinating information on wildlife and conservation to people from all walks of life. Recently, he has researched and presented wildlife information on television and radio and authored several wildlife books. Now based in Cairns, Martin runs his own wildlife education and interpretation business – Wild about Australia – that utilises his extensive experience and knowledge of tropical Australia and its wildlife.

Dr Simon Stirrat (Principal Biodiversity Planning Officer, Natural Resources Strategy and Policy, DERM)

Simon Stirrat has an Honours degree in Zoology from Monash University and a PhD from the Charles Darwin University in Darwin where he studied agile wallaby ecology and management. After completing field work for his PhD he joined the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in the wildlife management unit and managed a variety of projects including the federally approved crocodile management program involving population monitoring and crocodile harvest regulation. For the last 7 years he has worked for the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (formerly the Environmental Protection Agency) on kangaroo management, threatened species management and state and regional biodiversity planning.

Guy Chester (Managing Director of EcoSustainAbility)

Guy Chester has extensive experience in protected area management and World Heritage throughout tropical Australia and internationally. Guy has worked in Kakadu, Uluru, Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Areas. Guy was the inaugural Manager Planning with the Wet Tropics Management Authority and was on the Board of the Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre for four years. Guy undertook the development of the Management Plan for Lorenz World Heritage Area in Indonesia for the Australian Government as part of an AusAid project.

Guy has substantial environmental management experience having been National Technical Coordinator for one of Australia's largest environmental consulting companies and now runs his own consulting firm, EcoSustainAbility. Guy has undertaken projects in many countries ranging from China to Fiji, India to Iceland and including Belize, Indonesia, PNG and Chile. Guy is on the board of the UN organisation, the Tourism Sustainability Council.

Guy recently developed the Northern Beaches Wildlife Management Strategy for the EPA (now DERM) and Council and has undertaken research on Barron River delta wallabies for canegrowers.

Annabelle Olsson (Principal, Airport Veterinary Surgery and Boongarry Wildlife Services)

Annabelle Olsson is a local wildlife vet, with a Master of Science in Veterinary Science and Tropical Ecology, and is halfway through a PhD researching immobilisation of estuarine crocodiles. She has advanced qualifications in medicine of Australasian wildlife, avian health and captive animal management. She has contributed wildlife papers to a number of recent veterinary texts and journals.

Annabelle has worked extensively in private practice and provides consultancy services to wildlife organisations, zoos, crocodile farms and government agencies, both here and overseas. As a founder and training officer for FNQ Wildlife Rescue for many years, Annabelle has written and taught basic and advanced

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courses in the care and management of wildlife, to carers, Aboriginal rangers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife officers.

Annabelle is the President of the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland. She has received numerous awards for her contribution to wildlife research and wildlife carer training, and for the past 15 years has had a regular radio talkback segment on ABC Radio.

Tim Perry (Principal Ecologist, NRA Environmental Consultants)

Tim Perry graduated from University of New England (NSW) with an Honours degree in Applied Science. His honours thesis investigated weed invasion in sub-tropical forests, and he continues to have a keen interest in weed ecology and management. Tim has worked with numerous state and federal government agencies gaining broad experience in tropical and sub-tropical flora and fauna, and has developed particular expertise in wetland ecology.

Tim's skills include wetlands inventory; wetland ecology, landscape ecology; restoration ecology; natural resources management and land and vegetation mapping.

John Hungerford

John has worked extensively in the aviation & tourism industry for the past 30 years both in Cairns and overseas. He has lived in Cairns for over 20 years and has been a volunteer wildlife carer for 10 of those including past President of FNQ Wildlife Rescue. John has facilitated macropod care training courses for new members. John is currently running his own IT business where he designs and administers online reporting systems for aviation companies and organisations in Australia and Vietnam including Qantas, Jetstar, Australian Air Express & Jetstar Pacific. John also administers his own website (wallabyrescue.com.au) and gets frequent requests from overseas regarding wallaby care.

Hayden Ferguson (Senior Project Officer with the Wildlife Branch of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

Hayden is new to the QPWS and his current role includes the management of wildlife in North Queensland and working with stakeholders to resolve human wildlife conflict issues. Hayden has recently moved from South Africa where he has 13 years experience in protected area and wildlife management. His previous role has included the resolution of a diversity of community-wildlife conflict issues ranging from damage causing leopards to vervet monkeys in urban areas.

Alan Hopkins (Manager, Cane Supply and Productivity, Mulgrave Central Mill)

Alan is an Agricultural Scientist (Adelaide and Ohio State Universities), and have been in the local sugar industry for almost thirty years. I have been with Mulgrave Mill for twenty years, as a sugar chemist, field officer, and currently managing the cane rail operations and farm productivity.

Sarah Hoyal (Coordinator of the Cairns and far North Environment Centre)

Sarah has a bachelor of Applied Science and Masters in Social Science with Distinction and currently works for CAFNEC, the peak conservation group in the FNQ region. She has over 12 years experience working in the environment and community sector, which includes working for a Senator in Federal parliament, with Industry, government and Indigenous organisations as a consultant, and in community work both as a volunteer and paid employee. Sarah has travelled extensively and maintains a strong passion for environment and social justice issues.

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Appendix 2: Agile Wallaby Survey of the White Rock Area

By Guy Chester (EcoSustainAbility)