1. The Department of Environment and Science (DES) represents the Queensland Government in assisting the Commonwealth to meet Australia’s obligations under the World Heritage Convention. Responsibilities are detailed in the Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement and include the establishment of advisory committee arrangements for the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area (Qld Section).
2. The Gondwana World Heritage Advisory Committee (Qld Section) (the Committee) is an obligation under and funded through the 2018 – 2023 Project Agreement for World Heritage Management with the Commonwealth, and DES provides secretariat support. While the current Project Agreement ceased on 30 June 2023, the Australian Government has committed a further five years funding in the latest budget, to be administered through new Project Agreements for 2023-2028.
3. The role of the Committee is to:
* provide advice to the management agencies and State and Australian Government Ministers responsible for World Heritage on matters relating to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations, of the cultural and natural heritage from the viewpoint of the Traditional Owners and the community;
* ensure First Nations peoples’ rights and aspirations for the Gondwana World Heritage Area are a primary focus in advice provided to management agencies; and
* identify research priorities which will contribute, in particular, to the protection and conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Gondwana World Heritage Area.
1. Membership of the Committee includes representative First Nations peoples, scientific and community interests and expertise relevant to the management of the Gondwana World Heritage property. In addition to an independent Chair, there are 16 members: six First Nations representatives – two Yugambeh, two Yuggera Ugarapul, and two Githabul peoples; five community; and five scientific.
2. Cabinet noted the intention of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (the Minister) to appoint Dr Rosemary Hill as Chair of the Gondwana World Heritage Advisory Committee (Committee) for a term of three years commencing from the date of Ministerial appointment.
3. Cabinet noted the intention of the Minister to appoint Dr Melinda Laidlaw, Professor Jean-Marc Hero, Dr Aila Keto, Dr Serena Love and Dr Robert Kooyman as members (scientific representatives) of the Committee for a term of three years commencing from the date of Ministerial appointment.
4. Cabinet noted the intention of the Minister to appoint Mr Innes Larkin, Ms Liz Gould, Mr David Jinks, Ms Laura Ryan and Dr Noel Scott as members (community representatives) of the Committee for a term of three years commencing from the date of Ministerial appointment.
5. Cabinet noted the intention of the Minister to appoint Ms Amy Blow, Mr Germaine Paulson,
Ms Shaylene Saltner, Mr Robert Williams and Ms Melissa Chalmers as members (First Nations representatives) of the Committee for a term of three years commencing from the date of Ministerial appointment.
6. *Attachments*:
* Nil.