

Letter provided
by the Minister
post-hearing on
25/5/06.



SENATOR THE HON IAN CAMPBELL
Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Senator for Western Australia

Ms Mary Woods
'Coorangy'
TOOBEAH QLD 4498

15 MAR 2005

Dear Ms Woods

I am writing to you to clarify my expectations regarding the outcomes I envisage from a substantial reworking and simplification of the natural resources management plan for Cape York Peninsula following discussions you have had with my Adviser Mr Harry Abrahams.

I have attached a draft Terms of Reference for the work to be undertaken essentially to ensure it is a more appropriate plan for the region and has greater community support and ownership.

As you know Australian and Queensland Government Ministers met in February to consider a natural resource management plan for the region that was proposed for accreditation. My colleagues and I considered the plan is too caught be a range of only vaguely associated agendas for example a suggestion that the whole of the region be World Heritage Listed which would immediately alienate from the consultation process a range of important stakeholders. I consider the revised plan should be simpler and focus more on the outcomes sought from Natural Heritage Trust investment in the region.

I also consider that the plan is not written in a style appropriate for the community of the region. It is too complex, technical and not presented in a readily understandable style. I envisage a plain English document outlining the key targets, priorities and proposed investments is central to the delivery of natural resource management in the region.

While I recognise that the current plan holds a large amount of useful detail much of which may be appropriate as supporting documentation to the plan I do not consider it is appropriate as it stands. It will need to be tighter and simpler to perform that task.

A separate investment strategy is a customary requirement of the process. Inclusion or attachment of the strategy with detail of work plans, milestones and associated payment schedules would be appropriate. To enable contracts with providers to be readily finalised a supporting document including that more detailed information may be appropriate.

The Ministers meeting in February was also provided with a proposal for establishing community delivery and engagement arrangements for the region. Given your experience in community natural resource management delivery I would also appreciate your advice on the suitability of the proposed approach or any alternative approach.

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I trust this clarifies my expectations for the task ahead of you. I appreciate that the time frame to complete the task is short but recognise that considerable work has been done to date with the need of greater community ownership the key outcome we are trying to achieve at this stage.

I look forward to working with you on this important and challenging endeavour. I would be happy to discuss this further if that would be useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Campbell', written in a cursive style.

IAN CAMPBELL

Draft Terms of Reference for Development of an NRM Investment Plan for Cape York Peninsula

March 2005

1. Background

At the 16th February 2005 meeting of the Cape York Peninsula Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Ministerial Steering Committee, the Ministers agreed to appoint an independent eminent person to mediate with stakeholders for the production of a broadly accepted 'Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment Plan for Cape York Peninsula' incorporating key elements of the current plan and investment strategy. This document provides draft terms of reference to guide the appointed person to carry out the task.

2. Terms of references

The appointed eminent person will be responsible for:

- 2.1. overseeing the development of a package of documents providing the framework for the investment of Trust funds to deliver NRM outcomes on Cape York Peninsula.
The package will include three components:
 - An NRM Investment Plan for CYP, being a user-friendly, focussed summary document of the NRM Plan the Investment Strategy for the region, prepared in language and presentation suitable for Cape York residents,;
 - A revised, simplified and focused NRM Plan for the region detailing Resource Condition and Management Action Targets and priorities for investment; and
 - An Investment Strategy on which to base future investment contracts for the delivery of NRM particularly Trust Investments in the region.
- 2.2. engage with Cape York communities on the development of the NRM Investment Plan,
- 2.3. engaging with leaders of key stakeholder groups to obtain advice on local issues, and priorities particularly from Members of the CYIAG, and Mr Allan Pederson.,
- 2.4. promoting broad acceptance of the NRM Investment Plan and other components of the package to ensure accreditation,
- 2.5. demonstrating the community support for the package to Ministers to enable their endorsement,
- 2.6. working with appointed Commonwealth Officer (Debbie Wornor), , Director, Cape York Community Engagement Group (Alex Woodcock) and Queensland Officer (Mike Bradby) to carry out the above actions,
- 2.7. provide advice on the most suitable model for regional arrangements in the Cape York Peninsula including community advisory arrangements to support the delivery of Trust investment in the region,

3. Expected outcomes

The following outcomes are expected:

- 3.1. An NRM Investment Plan with associated NRM Plan and Investment Strategy,
- 3.2. Support from all relevant stakeholders to the above NRM Package for the Cape York Peninsula,
- 3.3. The Documents comprising the package described above provided to Ministers *suitable for their endorsement.*
- 3.4. A proposal for regional NRM delivery arrangements for the region including any associated establishment or interim arrangements required.

4. Timelines

An accepted common use guide of the Cape York Peninsula Natural Resource Management Plan incorporating a plan and investment strategy is to be completed and endorsed/accredited by 20th May 2005.