

Action Plan for TropLinks

Background

The Queensland Government has provided TropLinks with total funding of \$1.18 million (GST exclusive) under the terms of a funding agreement that ended on 30 June 2012. It was the Government's intention that TropLinks would be financially sustainable once the funding period had ceased and for the Association to continue to operate under its model rules.

Although the Government is not in the position to provide further funding to TropLinks, it is continuing to support tropical expertise as demonstrated through its \$42 million commitment to establish the Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine with James Cook University.

The TropLinks management committee and membership are ultimately responsible for determining the Association's business model and future actions. However, because residual grant funding remains in the TropLinks accounts (approximately \$24,000), the Government remains a stakeholder of the Association and desires that these funds be used in accordance with the model rules of the Association to grow, commercialise and export tropical expertise, and, in such a way that maximises the return on this public investment.

On 20 September 2012, the President and Secretary of the TropLinks Management Committee met with senior staff from the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts to discuss the future use of the residual funds which are acceptable to both the Association and to the State. As a consequence of that meeting, a draft list of potential actions and outcomes has been prepared to guide future activities by TropLinks.

Outcome and potential actions

1. TropLinks is recognised as the regional champion for tropical expertise

Actions

1.1. Identify opportunities, prioritise them, and facilitate their achievement through other parties

a) *e.g. use the market intelligence of the combined group to direct specific opportunities to relevant members. This information could be disseminated to members via the TropLinks website*

1.2. Form strategic alliances with proponents of tropical expertise

a) *e.g. invite representatives from industry and regional development bodies to become members of the management Committee, such as Advance Cairns and Townsville Enterprise Ltd*

1.3. Promote and market tropical expertise

a) *e.g. advocate for TropLinks and the regional capability of its members at meetings with local or visiting politicians or dignitaries – the September Cairns Community Cabinet provided such an opportunity*

b) *e.g. consider supporting the annual Tropical innovation Awards*

2. Commercialisation and development of business opportunities

Actions

2.1. Support commercialisation activities of others and leverage the opportunities this presents

a) *e.g. provide representation, advocacy and input to the Tropical Science and Expertise Leadership Group that links tropical expertise research and business leaders in North Queensland*

3. Increased collaboration and information sharing

Actions

3.1. Work with other organisations with a specific interest in tropical knowledge and expertise to gain critical mass and reduce duplication of effort

a) *e.g. engage with Austropex to consider how best to capitalise on the combined efforts and resources of the groups.*

3.2. Share information on relevant events or opportunities

a) *e.g. develop an information noticeboard on the web portal for members to communicate and post upcoming events and opportunities*

3.3. Work with specific subsectors in the development of tropical expertise

a) *e.g. convey international opportunities to groups such as the Tropical Green Building Network*

TROPLINKS

Budget Estimates

1st December 2012 to 30th June 2014

(19 Month Budget)

GRANT FUNDED ACTIVITIES	\$	\$
Carryover grant Funding as at 1st december 2012		27,888
 Expenses:		
Sponsorship of events (Including Innovation Awards)	7,500	
Website	1,000	
Emails & Letters	1,298	
Bookkeeping	2,000	
Rent	1,500	
Part-time Employees (Funded Activities) - 12 hrs month @ \$30 hour	6,840	
Committee Fees for Funded Activities - 5 hrs month @ \$50 hour	4,750	
Membership of Related Entities	3,000	
Total Expenses		<u>(27,888)</u>
Funding Balance as at 30 June 2014		<u>0</u>
 NON GRANT ACTIVITIES		
Income:		
Membership	7,500	
Trade Missions	75,000	
Total Income:		<u>82,500</u>
 Expenses:		
Trade Mission costs	60,000	
Stationery	1,000	
Part-time Employees - Admin 7 hours week @ \$30 hour	17,220	
Total Expenses		<u>(78,220)</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for period ended 30 June 2014		<u>4,280</u>
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2014		<u><u>4,280</u></u>