



With permission: Conway Burns

# **Fraser Island (K’gari) World Heritage Scientific Advisory Committee Communiqué December 2018 and February 2019**



The meeting unanimously agreed that when the terms of the committee are revised that Butchulla representatives should move from observer status to full membership of the Fraser Island (K’gari) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

The SAC welcomes the development of the Healthy Country Plan by the BAC and looks forward to providing advice as required.

The committee also appreciated the opportunity to visit the Secret Sacred Room at the Queensland Museum, accompanied by Butchulla representatives and the room’s custodian, (Leonie Coghill).

The SAC is very concerned at the decision of QPWS to block access to information regarding scientific and education permits for K’gari. We are pleased that some progress on this issue has been made, however are still denied access to key information including the permit reports and the names of the researchers working on these reports. Without access to the information in the permits, it is very difficult for the committee to monitor scientific research and its outcomes, thereby meet its fundaments duty as set out in the Terms of Reference. We look forward to a resolution in the near future.

The SAC discussed the great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan Review and is making a joint submission with the Fraser island Community Advisory Committee. Although the marine park falls outside the boundary of the world heritage area, the marine park has significant influence on heritage values on K’gari/Fraser Island World Heritage Area (and vice-versa). There is no mechanism to incorporate the inter-relationship between the land and sea into the zoning plan.

The SAC is pleased at the progress being made regarding funding for and the development of a Myrtle Rust Action Plan and on ground training. The SAC strongly encourages the engagement between the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and research scientists in the area of biosecurity. The committee encourages wider interactions in this area and planning to combat other biosecurity threats, including the consideration of vehicular disinfection stations at entry points to K’gari.



The SAC commends the new Queensland Biodiversity and Ecosystems Climate Adaptation Plan. The integration of scientific and Indigenous knowledge is important and well represented in the document.

The committee deeply appreciates the support given by the Queensland Government for the celebrations around the 25th Anniversary of the inscription of Fraser Island as a World Heritage Area. The committee looks forward to leveraging off the 25th Anniversary celebrations to raise the scientific and cultural profile of K'gari, including via the new Queensland Museum publication.