



cassowaryrecoveryteam

Coordinating conservation of Australia's endangered Southern Cassowaries (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*)



Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) is listed as 'endangered' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992* the Wet Tropics population is listed as 'endangered' and the Cape York populations are listed as 'vulnerable'.

A recovery plan has been prepared for the southern cassowary to ensure recovery of the southern cassowary and is set out in accordance with Part 13, Division 5 of the EPBC Act.

The stated overall objective of the cassowary recovery plan is to '*protect cassowaries, habitats and corridors from threats through better planning, monitoring and community involvement*'. The recovery plan states the necessary actions required to protect important populations of cassowaries, as well as how to manage and reduce threatening processes. The recovery plan provides a planned and logical framework for key interest groups and responsible government agencies to coordinate their work.

The Cassowary Recovery Team plays an important role in ensuring community, government and research activities undertaken in support of cassowary conservation through implementation of the recovery plan are aligned and coordinated, and that knowledge is shared as a basis for informed action. An underlying principle of the recovery team is that all members will benefit from their participation through gaining knowledge and achieving efficiencies in plan implementation.

2. Functions of the Cassowary Recovery Team

The primary function of the Cassowary Recovery Team is to coordinate implementation of the Cassowary Recovery Plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* (2007- 2011)¹. To achieve this, the Cassowary Recovery Team (CRT) will:

- hold regular recovery plan meetings which will have the primary purpose of sharing information, coordinating implementation activity and reporting to partners on progress and implementation issues, as a means of ensuring effective implementation of the recovery plan.
- provide advice to the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Department of the Environment Management, the Department of Environment and Heritage, and other authorities as appropriate about cassowary conservation issues.
- seek funding from government and other sources to support recovery plan objectives and actions.
- undertake a review of the implementation of the recovery plan every five years.

¹ Recovery Plan for the southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius johnsonii* 2007-2011. Report to Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane
<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/southern-cassowary/pubs/sth-cassowary.pdf>

3. Membership and term of office

Membership as outlined in the Cassowary Recovery Plan will be by invitation². As a general rule the CRT will comprise representatives of the Wet Tropics and Cape York regions active in cassowary research, management and community activities. Additional scientific or other expertise may be co-opted as agenda requires. This may include:

- relevant local councils, State and Australian government agencies
- Regional NRM bodies
- research organisations.
- Aboriginal interests
- Landholders or land managers
- Cassowary conservation groups
- tourism industry and zoos, and
- other individuals or groups with a particular interest or expertise in cassowary matters.

4. Responsibilities of recovery team members

All Cassowary Recovery Team members shall:

- regularly attend CRT meetings
- endeavour to align and coordinate the work of their organisation with that of other Recovery Team participants
- report back as necessary to their nominating organisation to encourage a wide knowledge about progress and issues in cassowary conservation
- inform the Recovery Team of any issues or recent information which should be discussed, noted or acted upon
- identify conservation and management problems on the ground and where appropriate bring them to the attention of the Recovery Team
- identify gaps in the knowledge relevant to the conservation and management of cassowaries (new research projects, progress of current research projects, and threatening processes)
- produce a brief update on activities since last meeting, for attachment to each meeting agenda, where appropriate, and
- make available relevant information held by the organisations they represent to assist the conservation and management process.

In order to encourage stability, cohesion and corporate memory, members are encouraged to make a three year minimum commitment to the Cassowary Recovery Team.

5. Cassowary Recovery Group Chair

The Cassowary Recovery Team shall elect a Chairperson as required.

² The Cassowary Recovery Team (with Wet Tropics Management Authority as Secretariat) will issue invitations for membership.

6. Convening of meetings

The Chairperson of the Cassowary Recovery Team may at any time convene a meeting and shall ensure that at least three meetings are held each calendar year.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority will provide secretarial and logistical support to the Recovery Team. These arrangements may be reviewed by the Recovery Team every two years.

7. Records and Reporting of the Cassowary Recovery Team

The minutes of meetings and records of all correspondence and reports will be kept by the Secretariat and be available to the members.

The minutes of all meetings will be prepared by the Secretariat and include:

- a listing of the members in attendance and apologies
- a brief account of the proceedings under each Agenda item conveying resolutions, actions responsibilities, and
- any statements which members request be recorded.

Communication to stakeholders will be facilitated through the dissemination of meeting minutes, reports and other relevant information to Recovery Team members. Reporting will also be provided to relevant agencies and funding organisations. It is envisaged that recovery team members will actively promote the recovery plan as the major strategic planning tool for cassowary conservation through the respective organisations they represent.

8. Fees and expenses

In accordance with Queensland Government policy and practice, sitting fees will not be paid. Positions on the Cassowary Recovery Team are strictly on an honorary basis.

The Authority, at its sole discretion, will reimburse the reasonable costs of non-salaried community member's travel expenses associated with the attendance at meetings at the standard State Government rate.

Where an expert advisor is invited to attend a meeting to provide technical advice, the Authority may elect, at its sole discretion, to cover any reasonable costs associated with their attendance.