



JOINT QUEENSLAND / COMMONWEALTH NRM STEERING COMMITTEE



Rockhampton Meeting Decisions

Meeting 6

REGIONAL MATTERS

Revised Foundation Funding – Condamine Alliance

The Committee reconfirmed the decision of Meeting No 5 to cap the Condamine Alliance's foundation funding activities at \$750,000 as approved by Ministers, subject to submission of financial and milestone reporting.

Revised Foundation Funding – SEQ Western Catchments Group

•The JSC approved a revised foundation funding of \$500,000 and supported finalisation of the activity agreement with the SEQ Western Catchments Group subject to receipt of satisfactory budget breakdown for the NUCC support of the Western Catchments Group.

QMDC NRM Plan

•The JSC agreed to offer support to the SW Regional Coordination Group in the provision of considered feedback on the current iteration of the QMDC draft Regional NRM Plan.

Priority Action Proposals Update

•The JSC reconfirmed that all priority action proposals needed to be submitted by 31 March 2003 and noted that there was scope for regional bodies with approved priority action proposals to submit further proposals before this date. If submitted with adequate lead time these could be considered at the next JSC meeting on 8 April 2003, otherwise out of session following the meeting.

Revised Priority Action Proposal - Condamine Alliance

•The JSC endorsed the Revised Priority Action Proposal submitted by the Condamine Alliance - **Repair of Unacceptable Degradation** for recommendation to Ministers for approval. The JSC also noted that Condamine Alliance has incorporated negotiation of a satisfactory MOU between key regional agencies and organisations regarding the development of the resource information system into its Priority Action called **Condamine resource information system for target-based NRM**.

Priority Action Proposal – FBA – Water Treatment Plant at Mt Morgan Mine

•The JSC agreed to recommend the Fitzroy Basin Association Priority Action Proposal for a **Water Treatment Plant for rehabilitation of Mt Morgan Mine runoff** to Ministers for approval, subject to formal State confirmation that the State will meet ongoing operational and maintenance costs within the context of the overarching site rehabilitation plan.

Regional NRM Groups Collective Meeting Report

•The JSC noted the issues raised on behalf of the Regional Groups Collective and recommended that a formal response be provided to the Collective:

1. The Commonwealth and State agreed to commence bilateral negotiations on the facilitator / coordinator issues and to advise any outcomes from the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board in terms of short-term funding for the facilitators / coordinators.
2. The JSC has requested Catharine Masters and Allan Dale to come back with a specific proposal about how to progress the issue of selection of future investments in NAP priority investment regions.
3. The JSC was keen to confirm the policy position relating to management targets and resource condition targets with respect to targets in the accredited Regional NRM Plans.
4. The Committee acknowledged that Regional Bodies can choose to put forward an investment strategy and a NRM plan in the same document but that the potential implications of doing that should be noted. The JSC also agreed that a Regional Investment Strategy needs to be represented as a discreet component of the Regional NRM Plan if the two are to be brought together.
5. The JSC agreed to develop and distribute Regional Investment Strategy guidelines as soon as possible to Regional Bodies and Regional Coordination Groups based on the existing planning guidelines.

REPORTING

Single Holding Account Reporting and Payments

•The Committee agreed to release \$1.17M to the Qld Environmental Protection Agency for implementation of the first component of the **Water Quality Workplan** once the MOU is signed with the Qld State Government.

•The JSC noted the **Salinity Workplan Implementation Board** Quarterly Report. The JSC approved the release of funds to the Qld Natural Resource Sciences Centre for implementation of the Salinity Workplan following the signing of the MOU with the Qld State Government.

•The JSC noted that the Fitzroy Basin Association was the only regional body in receipt of funds to provide a quarterly report in the required format on its Foundation Funding Activities (Burnet Mary's submitted report is being revised). The JSC will write to the funded regional bodies reminding them of their next quarter's reporting responsibilities under the activity agreements due in by 14 March 2003.

POLICIES and GUIDELINES

Funding distribution – post accredited NRM plans, role of MCA and DSS

- It was agreed that Catharine Masters and Allan Dale would come back to the JSC with a specific proposal about how to progress the issue of selection of future investments in NAP priority investment regions.

Role and membership of Cwlth Qld Regional NRM Coordination Groups

- The JSC reviewed a draft paper on the role and membership of the Cwlth Qld Regional NRM Coordination Groups. The JSC asked Catharine Masters to edit the paper to better reflect the importance of the relationship between the regional bodies and the JSC.

Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy Development

- The development of a State NRM Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework is progressing through the work of a Queensland Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Working Group which has Commonwealth, State and Regional representation.

Draft Statewide Activities MOU Development

- The JSC noted progress on the Draft Statewide Activities MOU development and agreed that the MOU should refer to and include agreements and protocols that describe how data and information is managed and accessed by the NRM players associated with the NAP and NHT programs implementation.

Data Protocols

- The JSC noted the progress on the development of the Data Access and Management Protocol between the State and Commonwealth and agreed that a covering memo should be prepared to attach to the ANZLIC Model Protocol. It would act to broaden the current end user focused permissions for data use and it would endorse the preferred Commonwealth and Queensland positions regarding the ownership of Intellectual Property created under the NAP and Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funded activities. The JSC agreed that this preferred position is that for regionally funded projects, the title to and intellectual property rights in the material produced will vest with the respective regional body, however the Commonwealth and the State will be granted a non-exclusive, perpetual, royalty free licence (including a right to sub-licence) to use that material. In the case of Statewide activities, intellectual property rights would vest with the Commonwealth and the State.

- The JSC noted the cost of jointly funded data being provided to regional bodies through SIP Statewide Activities is to be internalised within these activities' resources, ie free of charge to Regional Bodies. The State will explore the policy implications of this arrangement and report back to JSC if there are any issues arising.

GENERAL

Implementation Boards Terms of Reference

- The JSC agreed to the Water Quality Workplan Implementation Board Terms of Reference subject to some minor changes including an allowance for a non-NAP regional body representative to attend as an observer
- The JSC approved the Salinity Workplan Implementation Board's amended Terms of Reference.

2003 JSC meetings

Please note the proposed dates for the remaining 5 meetings in 2003.

08/09 April Bundaberg (Burnett Mary to host)

25/26 June Townsville (Burdekin Dry Tropics Board to host)

27/28 August Esk (SEQ Western Catchments Group to host)

29/30 October Canberra

3/4 December TBA