



**JOINT QUEENSLAND /  
COMMONWEALTH  
NRM STEERING  
COMMITTEE**



## **JSC Meeting 8 Decisions - Mt Isa**

**17 June 2003**

### **NHT2 Interim Assessment Group**

The JSC made recommendations concerning the operations, purpose and membership (including technical participation) of the Interim Assessment Group in line with the Interim Financial Agreement (IFA) for the Natural Heritage Trust Extension.

The JSC agreed that the IAG should aspire to seek consensus decisions, however a minority report should be provided where this is not feasible. The IAG is expected to operate as a body independent of regional interests and look will work to achieve the best NHT outcomes for the State and consider impartial technical advice from within the group. They should demonstrate regard for the views of the technical advisors within the group. The role of the technical advisors is to provide impartial technical advice so that the bids effectively address the functional areas identified in the IFA.

### **Regional Body Priority Action Proposals under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water**

The JSC agreed to submit to a range of priority action proposals to Commonwealth and State Ministers. Proposals considered by the JSC were from Burdekin Dry Tropics Group, Condamine Alliance, Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM, SEQ Western Catchments Group. The JSC has advised all regional bodies in writing as to the status of the proposals and the need for any further changes or clarification.

### **Data Management Protocols for Qld**

The JSC noted progress to finalizing Data Management Protocols for Queensland and requested that it be finalized as a matter of urgency.

### **Social & Economic Guidelines**

The JSC approved the public release of Regional Planning Guidelines module - "Integrating Economic and Social Issues in Regional Natural Resource Management Planning – A framework for Regional Bodies"

### **Indigenous Guidelines**

The JSC approved the Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Involvement in NHT2 subject to some amendments.

## **Local Government Statewide Proposal**

The JSC agreed to recommend the first phase to Ministers and gave in principle support for the second phase of the project. Contractual arrangements will be finalized through a two-phased approach subject to JSC agreement.

## **Interim Facilitator Coordinator Bids**

The JSC noted the resolutions and decision-making principles of the Interim Assessment Group.

### **Bridging Funding**

In relation to bridging funding (that is the extension of current positions from 1 July to 30 September 2003) the JSC noted that this would be supported now and agreed to approve a regional body bid.

However, this approval was not to be considered an endorsement of continuing all positions post 30 September 2003.

The JSC noted that matching In-kind funding for Bridging Funding will be agreed in the future as part of the overall facilitator coordinator funding for 2003/2004.

### **Interim Funding**

In relation to interim funding (that is the funding of both current and new positions from 1 October 2003 to 30 June 2004, the JSC noted that it appeared that not all regional bodies had examined existing positions with a view to realigning them to critical future NRM requirements.

The JSC agreed that for NRM SEQ (incorporating SEQ WCG) and Burnett Mary, who had committed to a major realignment by foregoing all current positions, all new positions would be allowed to commence during the Bridging Period (i.e. from 1 August 2003) and that this would be funded from the new NHT2 interim dollars.

The JSC endorsed interim facilitator funding for submission to Commonwealth and State Ministers for 2003/2004 for regional bodies that submitted bids under the Interim Financial Agreement for NHT2, subject to a number of changes and clarifications. In-kind matching arrangements by Queensland are to be finalised as part of overall facilitator coordinator funding for 2003/2004. The JSC has advised all regional bodies in writing as to the status of their bids and the need for any further changes or clarification prior to submission to Ministers.

## **Sustainable Agricultural Production SIP**

The JSC endorsed the proposed process for returning a fully developed Ag Sip to JSC out of session noting that potential efficiencies in costings should be explored across the projects.

## **Regional Bodies Foundation Funding Activities updated 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Reports and funding requests**

The JSC noted progress of all regional bodies against agreed milestones and payments

The JSC approved payments of an agreed amount to the QMDC to cover Q4 payment requirements.

### **RCG Involvement with performance and financial reporting**

The JSC agreed that all draft financial and performance reports will be tabled with Regional NRM Coordination Groups (RCGs) for an all of Government evaluation. JSC agreed that results of the evaluation should be provided to the NAP State Contact Officer within one week and the relevant regional body prior to the appropriate certification and recommendation to the JSC.

### **Statewide Project Reports**

#### **Salinity Activity**

The JSC noted that an MOU had been signed for the statewide Salinity Activity. The JSC requested the resubmission of a revised milestone and payment schedule that clearly breaks down each project's budget against the individual milestones. The JSC agreed quarterly payments (1 to 3) in accordance previously agreed Schedule 2. Any further progress payments would not occur until the submission of a revised Schedule 2.

#### **Water Quality Activity**

The JSC noted changes to the membership of the Water Quality Program Implementation Board (including full membership of the non-NAP regional body representative), as well financial and progress reports. The JSC agreed to a revision of the Water Quality Program Work Plan and schedule of milestones and payments subject to appropriate amendment.

### **National MBI Pilot Program source of funding**

JSC approved payments for the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council agreed National Market Based Instruments (MBI) Pilot Program.

### **Amendment to Financial Management Protocol**

The JSC approved amendment of the Financial Management Protocol concerning the recovery of funds following termination of any activity and the reallocation of those funds to agreed activities by the JSC.

### **Regional Coordination Group**

The JSC noted the Northern Region Coordination Group Progress Report.

### **2003 JSC MEETINGS**

28/29 August Townsville

29/30 October Esk

3/4 December TBA