



# Taskforce Weekly Bugle

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## KEY MESSAGES

### Red Tape Reduction

### New Torres Strait Body

### Finding the Fund Balance

### Regional Strategic Facilitators

### Progress on the Border

### Keeping Politicians Briefed

### Red Tape Reduction

Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is now looking to develop ways to streamline the flow of finances to Regional Bodies. The first of these reforms signed off by JSC in August includes the making of automatic payment of upon JSC receipt of the State contact officers' signoff of quarterly financial reports.

[Back to top](#)

### New Torres Strait Body

Congratulations are in order for the new Torres Strait Regional Body, established in late August following a broad community consultation process. The new chair is Josephine David-Petero, the women's representative on the Board. The new Board involves 6 Island cluster/TSRA representatives, environment and community fishing, education and a women's representative. A new sub-regional group of the Northern Regional Co-ordination Group (RCG) is also being established to service and partner the group.

[Back to top](#)

### Finding the Fund Balance

The broad debate about the appropriate level of investment between support/facilitation, technical support and on-ground works is alive and well at the moment, with a healthy debate being sparked particularly in the QMDC and Fitzroy regions. While Queensland recognises the absolute link between facilitator/coordinator positions and on-ground natural

resource improvements, there are also some short-term risks in Regional Bodies building too big a human resource infrastructure at this early stage of their development. I would encourage bodies to look seriously at the relative balance in human resource and on-ground investments.

[Back to top](#)

### **Regional Strategic Facilitators**

Major Commonwealth progress has been made on the selection processes for Strategic Regional positions. The State is keen to see the next step taken, including tripartite agreement between the NRM Bodies, Regional Coordination Group chairs and the Commonwealth contact officer regarding, employment, host and work plan decisions. To ensure the roles between Regional Bodies and Commonwealth staffers is clearly distinguishable, the State would not encourage Regional Bodies to host these positions.

[Back to top](#)

### **Progress on the Border**

After the Border Rivers Integrated Catchment Committee (BRICC) in Stanthorpe on September 9, significant progress is being made on the QMDC and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and National Resources working towards synchronising effort between the NSW and Queensland processes. Congratulations are in order for this moving forward collaboratively.

[Back to top](#)

### **Keeping Politicians Briefed**

Some lessons from the Accreditation process in other states is suggesting the importance of Regional Bodies briefing their local members, Federal and State about progress and successes in the Regional NRM Planning process. As a general principle, briefing local members should be an important feature of your community engagement and communication strategies.

[Back to top](#)