

Taskforce Weekly Bugle



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Foundation Funding

JSC have reviewed all of the foundation funding bids provided by Regional Bodies on 2 October. With strong advice from the Interim Advisory Group and Regional Coordination Groups, JSC approved some \$5,173,400 worth of bids. These bids are now being recommended to Ministers and letters have been forwarded to all Chairs to provide their revised bids and adjusted schedule 2's to the JSC Secretariat, Debbie Guzek (ph 3225 2676), as soon as possible.

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NHT Advisory Committee

The Commonwealth's NHT Advisory Committee undertook regional consultations in Mackay on 13 and 14 October. The Mackay Whitsunday and Burdekin Dry Tropics groups both presented to the Committee, again demonstrating real progress in their regions. The Mackay Whitsunday approach to building the capacity of all sectors in the region was particularly noted by the Committee. The Group outlined how it has focussed on contracting its human resource functions into the region's sectors (eg industry, catchment groups etc), and limiting the level of employment in the regional NRM body. From the State perspective, this represents real investment in regional capacity, and encourages investment from other sectors (eg Local government). This is an important consideration in current

debates about sustainable levels of government investment in human resources.

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Nationally Competitive Regional Funds

JSC has finalised guidelines about Nationally Competitive NHT funding. This issue was discussed at the Regional Group Collective Meeting at Mackay prior to formal release of the funding guidelines. A limited number of targeted proposals are being progressed. For more information, contact David Wildermuth on telephone (07) 3224 2475 or Email

David.Wildermuth@nrm.qld.gov.au

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State Level Commonwealth NHT Coordinators

Many of the State NHT Coordinator positions are now commencing, employed by the Commonwealth and located within CSE Sustainable Ecosystems at the Cunningham Laboratories at St Lucia. Welcome on board to Claire Heath - Sustainable resource use (ph 3214 2641), Kirstin Keynon – Water (ph 3214 2369), Annie Keys – Biodiversity (ph 3214 2650) and Tania Ashworth - Coastal and marine (ph 3214 2363). The Taskforce will be working closely with these positions.

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Local Government Involvement

It is important that Regional Bodies, Regional Planning Advisory Committees or Regional Organisations of Councils look very closely at their working relationship and the real opportunities for the NRM efforts of both to compliment each other. Both Regional Growth Management Frameworks and Regional NRM Plans require Ministerial support, so both are co-dependent - each requires support from, and are complimentary to the other. A new State-wide NAP investment run by the Local Government Association of Queensland is specifically looking to supporting local governments to get more involved in the regional NRM planning process (contact Malcolm Petrie at LGAQ, ph 3000 2202).

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Future representation for on ground community NRM volunteers

The Statewide Body representing on ground NRM volunteers has a name - **Queensland Water & Land Carers Board.**

A reminder that the closing date for Board Member Applications to the Queensland Water & Land Carers Board is **Monday 10 November 2003**. Those eligible are volunteer individuals or groups whose primary focus is natural resource management. Provisional membership allows volunteers to nominate and vote election process, taking place in later in November.

For further information please contact Brenda Walhain, Executive Officer Interim Steering Committee on (07) 3224 7505 or visit www.landcareqld.org.au

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National Conference on Climate Impacts on Australia's Natural Resources: Current and Future Challenges

This upcoming conference will provide natural resource managers from across the country with the most up-to-date scientific knowledge regarding climate change and climate variability impacts of natural and managed systems. In addition, the conference will provide delegates, from across Australia, an opportunity to begin to identify practical steps towards more adaptive natural resource management to build resilience to future climate variability and change. The conference runs from 25 to 27 November 2003 at the Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise, Queensland. For further information please contact the Conference Secretariat on telephone (07) 3846 5858 or Email climateimpacts@eventcorp.com.au

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