

Taskforce Weekly Bugle



KEY MESSAGES

Training for regional NRM plan development

During the past three months, regional bodies have been involved in regional NRM plan development training sessions. The training was organised by Regional Arrangements and Planning Team's Helena Malawkin (ph. 07 3224 2154) and delivered by staff from the Environmental Protection Agency, Australian Government and Regional NRM Taskforce. The training sessions covered all aspects of the regional NRM planning guidelines and where possible included real case studies delivered by regional bodies that have commenced the development of their plans.

All of the training sessions have had good attendances and most of the northern, central and western regional bodies have now undergone training sessions. Feedback from these regional bodies regarding the training sessions has been positive, with the main areas of interest being the planning integration process for target setting, Joint Steering Committee approval process and monitoring and evaluation. Final training sessions will be held early next year with South East Queensland and Burnett Mary regional bodies and a follow up with the Condamine Alliance.

Regional NRM plans

Healthy Regional Arrangements takes another step forward with the first two draft regional NRM plans released under the National Action Plan, Natural Heritage Trust and the Queensland Government's Healthy Regional Arrangements.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and South West Natural Resource Management Group (SWNRM) released a Draft Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan for public consultation in November. The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) draft regional NRM plan was presented at the

December Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for further consultation approval and should be available for public consultation following JSC approval.

Both of these plans identify key regional issues, which range from dryland salinity and water quality management to communication, education capacity building and cultural heritage. The regional NRM plans will be the basis for all future investment from the State and Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust – Extension and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. These regional NRM plans will inject millions of dollars into local communities after the accreditation of the plan and the much-welcomed phase of onground activity throughout the region.

For information on the QMDC / SWNRM plan please contact Andrew Drysdale, EO, QMDC on (07) 4637 6271 or Michelle Callaghan, EO, SWNRM on (07) 4654 7382. Contact Mike Merrin, CEO, FBA on (07) 4921 2957 for information on the FBA plan.

Queensland Land and Water Carers elections

You are probably all aware that Queensland Land and Water Carers has replaced LCMC. Currently elections are underway to establish the new committee for the Queensland Land and Water Carers. The nomination period for appointment of board members to Queensland Water & Land Carers closed on 10 November. The Interim Steering Committee received nominations from seven electorates.

An election will be run in the Fitzroy Basin, as this electorate received more than one nomination.

Nominations were also received from:

- Burnett Mary
- Qld Murray Darling – Condamine
- South East Qld & Western Catchments
- Desert Channels
- Cape York & Torres Strait
- Wet Tropics

It is anticipated the appointment and announcement of board members will be made prior to Christmas. For further information please contact Brenda Walhain, Executive Officer Interim Steering Committee on (07) 3224 7505.

Queensland Regional Bodies Information System

A reminder that the Queensland Regional Bodies Information System (ORBIS) is up and running and available for use. ORBIS is an online system providing access to socio-economic data concorded (best fitted) to regional natural NRM body boundaries. Where data is available, data is also presented at the sub-regional level.

The data is of particular use to regional bodies and their advisors/consultants in undertaking regional profiling exercises and to develop a better understanding of the demographic makeup of regions and sub regions. The database is available at <http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au/qrbis/>.

To obtain user name and password to access QRBIS please contact the QRBIS Administrator Glen Collins on (07) 3405 5286. For other information on QRBIS please contact Jim Binney on (07) 3224 7281.