

Taskforce Weekly Bugle



KEY MESSAGES

Foundation Funds

Now that Ministerial sign off has been secured for NHT2 Foundation Funding, rapid progress is being made on finalising contracts. Most Schedule 2s (Milestones) have been provided by regional bodies. If your region has any concern about finalisation of the contracts, please contact John Keating on 07 3224 2389.

Indicative allocations

JSC is gearing up to discuss indicative allocations for future NAP and NHT2 funding. This will allow regional bodies to have some sense of the resources that may be available to implement quality regional plans and investment strategies. The JSC is exploring an approach previously considered by the Regional Groups Collective during the Hamilton Workshop in early 2003, and is planning to discuss this approach during the February Collective meeting. For further information contact Brian Venz (07 3224 2303) or Suzanne Hoverman (07 3239 3884).

ISRA project reaches Queensland regions

The Regional NRM Taskforce's ISRA (Information Systems for Regional Arrangements) project gives regions and the Queensland Government an opportunity to focus on information systems needed to support programs such as NAPSWQ, NHT2 and NLP. Guided by a project team of government and regional body representatives, the project sets out to define information needs for program and regional NRM plan monitoring and reporting. It will evaluate systems that are needed to support these needs; and then make these system/s available to key stakeholders.

Regional bodies are key stakeholders for the ISRA project. As such, a series of workshops have been held across Queensland to focus on regional information needs and to discuss development possibilities. Between October and December last year, nine workshops were held in regional centres. The remaining four regions will hold workshops early this year.

Following the workshops, systems specifications surveys have revealed exactly what regional bodies are looking for in a system. This information will be used to evaluate a number of information systems that could meet these needs. The evaluation panel will present their recommendations to regional bodies and the Regional Groups Collective in March 2004.

The aim is for new reporting systems to be available for use by regional bodies in April to start tracking regional activities. As it will include automated reporting,

preparation of the 2004-05 annual reports for NAPSWQ, NHT2 and NLP should be more straightforward. Regions will also be better placed to build their regional NRM information as a regional asset to benefit a wide range of stakeholders. For more information contact Andrea Kennedy 07 3224 2323.

QFF and RGC to pursue policy partnership

QFF advises that workshop was held in Brisbane in early February between representatives of the QFF and member bodies and seven regional NRM bodies to formally progress discussions on a policy partnership between the Regional Groups Collective and the Federation. It was agreed that there were four key areas that could underpin a policy partnership between the Collective and QFF, one of which was a regional approach to natural resource management planning with acknowledgment of regional appropriateness, coordination or integration of regional plans, and formalised communication channels. A number of policy issues were identified as an initial focus, including Farm Management Systems, climate variability/change and vegetation management. Mechanisms to improve the relationship between the Collective and QFF on these issues were outlined, including greater sharing of information at both the statewide and regional/industry level. For further information contact QFF Environment Policy Officer, Nigel Kimball at nigel@qff.org.au

New QFF Policy Officer

QFF's has informed us that their new Policy Officer – Water and Environment, Kristy Galway, commenced employment with QFF last month. Kristy recently graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Natural Resource Economics (Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts (Geography). During her time at university Kristy developed an understanding of a number of environmental issues and in particular the key principles and legislation surrounding water management. She has an interest in environmental policy development and sustainable water use. For water enquiries, Kristy can be contacted on 07 3017 1333 or email kristy@qff.org.au

We welcome your input and feedback on this newsletter. If you have any contributions, comments or suggestions please contact phoebe.kinley@nrm.qld.gov.au