

Taskforce Weekly Bugle



KEY MESSAGES 27/02/04

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

As many of you will already know the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has been renamed the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (NRM&E). The Office of Energy, which was part of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation, is now part of the department. The Hon. Stephen Robertson remains the Minister and Terry Hogan remains the Director-General.

New Director-General for DPI&F and Minister for EPA

DPI has also had a name alteration, now called the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F). Jim Varghese has replaced Dr Warren Hoey as Director-General. Mr Varghese has previously held senior executive positions within the DPI. He has served as Director-General for the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Main Roads, Education Queensland and most recently Department of Employment and Training. The Hon. Henry Palaszczuk remains the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries.

The Hon. John Mickel is the new Minister for the Environment. James Purtill remains the Director-General.

Interim Financial Agreement extension

Despite the recent Australian Government Ministerial release on successful projects, full project proposals are still due to the JSC secretariat Friday 27 February. Regional NRM bodies and regional coordination groups must have demonstrated a negotiated in-kind contribution before JSC can approve release of funds. Should you wish to discuss in-kind please contact Anne Goeths on 07 3224 2152.

NHT Competitive Regional Funding Round 2

JSC has finalised and circulated guidelines to regional bodies for NHT Competitive Regional Funding Round 2. Proposals for this second round can seek funding for up to three years from 2004/05 to 2006/07. Similar to Round 1 the Queensland JSC is

proposing a targeted approach. For more information, contact David Wildermuth on 07 3224 2475 or email David.Wildermuth@nrm.qld.gov.au

Performance Excellence Guide

The Regional Groups Collective (the Collective) with support from the National Action Plan has retained Norbert Vogel from AKM Gp and Charlie Zammit from University of Southern Qld to prepare a guide on improved business performance which is tailored to the needs of the regional NRM bodies of Queensland. A 40 page booklet 'Performance Excellence Guide for Regional NRM Organisations' has just been published and provided to members of the Collective.

The Performance Excellence Guide describes key elements of the management system and is a complement to the Corporate Governance Guidelines (produced for regional NRM bodies by Price Waterhouse Coopers) which describe key elements of the governance system. The two documents strongly support each other where the former booklet is not quite as strong on governance, only making reference to the "need to have a governance system in place".

The performance excellence guide provides for three levels of intervention:

- the first is as a checklist of practices to put in place in a new organisation
- the second is to illuminate good practices which are already in place and to prioritise improvements and close any gaps
- the last is a rigorous assessment tool to highlight areas where the more established organisations can make improvements especially by inviting in external assessors to appraise the business management of the organisation

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