

Regional NRM Bugle



Review of regional NRM planning

The external review of regional NRM planning arrangements is rapidly building to a conclusion as preliminary materials and briefings from the consultants start to come in. An early draft background paper comparing and contrasting Queensland's regional arrangements with those in other jurisdictions was received two weeks ago. A draft evaluation framework was also received.

A total of six focus groups representing the Regional Groups Collective (RGC) and regional bodies, local government, State and Australian government, industry and conservation interests, and two indigenous focus groups (one each in the north and south) have supplied very interesting and diverse reflections on the state of current arrangements. In addition, a total of almost 50 individual interviews have contributed greatly to building the picture of our regional arrangements.

The RGC received a briefing on the status of the review and its preliminary findings at their meeting last week. State government officials have appreciated the external approach to analysing regional NRM planning and over the next short period will be considering how best to use the consultants' findings. Importantly, the final report will be a significant contributor to formulating the Cabinet Submission that reports back on regional NRM planning later this year. For further information, contact Suzanne Hoverman on 07 3239 3884 or Suzanne.Hoverman@nrm.qld.gov.au

Negotiating in-kind

A number of regional bodies have raised concerns about the issue of "matching" or in-kind negotiation. Some people in both government and regional bodies still think of the Natural Heritage Trust – Extension in-kind in National Heritage Trust stage 1 terms. Under stage 1 of the Trust, in-kind was secured at a project level and often resulted in the State government handing resources into an agreed project.

Under the Natural Heritage Trust - Extension, the focus is on aligning State government efforts to achieve agreed regional aspirations and targets. This means negotiation of in-kind is a dialogue about aligning investment to agreed priorities rather than "matching" project or program activities dollar for dollar. **This doesn't mean however, that there can't be program level matching where bodies and the State are really focussed on collaboration.**

In-kind should be clearly articulated in Regional Investment Strategies, usually at a broader activity level eg *Water Resource Planning* or *Coastal Planning*. For further information, contact Anne Goeths on 07 3224 2152 or Anne.Goeths@nrm.qld.gov.au

South East Queensland Draft Plan for public release

South East Queensland (SEQ) Western Catchments has submitted its plan for public release. The document has a strong targets base and assets focus. Congratulations to the Western Catchments Team and Board on an excellent job. For further information, contact Simon Warner on 07 3816 9700 or eo@seqwgc.com.au

Social and Economic State-Level Investment Projects

Many regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies are considering using incentives within their Regional Investment Strategies to promote changes in land use practices. Some regional NRM bodies have therefore identified the need for assistance in identifying the types and appropriateness of available incentive mechanisms for NRM.

To assist regional NRM bodies in this matter we have compiled the document "*Choosing between incentive mechanisms for natural resource management: a practical guide for regional NRM bodies in Queensland*". This document aims to assist regional NRM bodies in deciding which incentive mechanism suits different NRM problems. A suggested range of incentive mechanisms a regional NRM body can directly and indirectly use are outlined. Two appendices provide a brief discussion of these mechanisms and summarise when they are best used. The background information is highlighted and a series of questions asked that help assess the suitability of the different incentive mechanisms. For further information, contact Jim Binney on 07 3224 7281 e-mail on Jim.Binney@nrm.qld.gov.au or look at Social and economic SIPs page on the regional NRM web site

Healthy Savanna Planning Update

In the last six weeks the Savanna Planning team has been:

- Developing *regional biographies* - for each of the Queensland regions – currently in draft but seeking feedback from the Regional Arrangements Improvement Team and regional NRM groups during June.
- Collaborating on the current State Government Review of Regional Arrangements providing process design and support, attending focus group sessions and key workshops.

The updated *NRM Plan review criteria* (including coasts) will be circulated for peer review in June/July and the team will be finalising the *regional arrangements criteria* shortly. It will be a busy two months for the Savanna Planning team! For further information, contact Bruce Taylor on 07 3214 2638 or Bruce.Taylor@csiro.au or Michelle Walker on 07 3405 6882 or Michelle.Walker@nrm.qld.gov.au

A Community survey provides many advantages for the NGRMG

The Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG) will trial a community survey process as part of the development and ongoing monitoring of the group's regional natural resource management Plan.

Fifteen local community people have been hired for two weeks to conduct phone surveys and interviews. The NGRMG hope to include at least 10% of the entire region in the survey process and will be randomly choosing people from the local

phone book in addition to surveying specific sector groups such as Indigenous people.

The group hopes to obtain some base line information on the perceptions of the people in their region. Especially those people that may not of been directly involved in natural resource management (NRM) in the past. By repeating this survey annually the group hopes to be able to monitor a positive change in peoples perceptions of NRM. The survey will also help to raise awareness of the group and its regional NRM plan.

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