

Regional NRM Bugle



KEY MESSAGES 16/07/04

National Landcare Program

The Australian Government has made calls for the National Landcare Program (NLP) funding. The 2004-05 Australian Government Budget provided funding of \$159.5 million for the NLP over the next four years.

A review of the NLP was undertaken in 2003 with the outcomes considered in the 2004-05 Budget context. In light of the review, the NLP will continue to focus on natural resource management (NRM) and sustainable agriculture in rural and regional Australia, with well-planned investment and an emphasis on industry engagement at the national and regional levels. The Community Support component of the NLP will invest in community and industry Landcare activities in NRM and sustainable agriculture that are consistent with priorities in accredited regional plans and investment strategies. As such, it will complement the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and Envirofund. Queensland is expecting to receive similar Community Support funding in 2004/05 to that received last year (approximately \$5 million) dependent on applications received and Australian Government Ministers approval.

The Australian Government is now calling for applications for funding local and regional community Landcare projects from the Community Support component (up to \$25 million) of the National Landcare Program (NLP). In addition, a further \$1.5 million is available from the Natural Resource Innovation Grants initiative, a national component of the NLP, to eligible individuals, businesses and incorporated community groups involved in Australia's farming, food, aquaculture, forest or related industries.

Guidelines and application forms for:

- 2004-05 NLP Community Support (closing date 3 September 2004) are available at www.landcare.gov.au/nlpcommunitysupport
- Natural Resource Innovation Grants (closing date 13 August 2004) at www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations

Or call the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 1800 657 220.

Bilateral on *regionalnrm*

The National Heritage Trust Extension (the Trust) Bilateral that was signed on 18 June is now on the regional NRM website. The link is www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/planning/joint/index.html Congratulations to all those involved in finalising the negotiations.