

Regional NRM Bugle



KEY MESSAGES 17/09/04

- [Happy 1st birthday to the Regional NRM Bugle](#)
- [JSC minutes and Tele-link minutes on the web](#)
- [Transitional risk](#)
- [Contracts and payments](#)
- [Australian Government in caretaker role](#)

Happy 1st birthday to the *Regional NRM Bugle*

It has been a year since the first *Bugle* appeared on computer monitor screens all over Queensland. We hope that it is still providing you with a brief update of all the current news associated with regional NRM planning. To ensure it is still meeting your needs, we will be sending out a short survey asking for your feedback on all of our products during October. We hope you will participate and look forward to receiving your suggested improvements. You can see all of the back issues for the *Bugle* on the regional NRM website at

www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/news_events/updates/bugle.html

JSC minutes and Tele-link Minutes on the web

In addition to the bi-monthly meetings held by all members of the Joint Australian and Queensland Government Steering Committee (JSC), there is now a fortnightly tele-link between representatives of the Australian and Queensland Government. These fortnightly meetings are now scheduled to meet the increasing demands on the JSC to review documentation and will assist in delivering services in a timely manner.

Both the bi-monthly and new fortnightly tele-link minutes can be found on the [regional NRM web site](#).

Transitional risk

Regional bodies are reminded that managing financial risks is a critical part of their business. The Joint Australian and Queensland Steering Committee (JSC) has put into place a number of mechanisms to enable regional NRM bodies to manage these risks, including:

- transitional funding opportunities while the Regional Investment Strategies (RIS) are not in place to cover core operational costs
- pre-accreditation investments - if you believe there is a critical investment that is likely to be in your RIS but can progress urgently, please approach the JSC with an early view of what is being considered
- a shift towards six-month progress payments.

Finally, please keep in mind that rapid completion of your RIS with support from your Regional Coordination Group is essential.

Contracts and payments

Please be assured that finalisation of regional NRM body contracts and payments is a high priority for Strategic Policy & Regional Arrangements (SPRA) staff. If you are

experiencing any delays, please contact [John Keating](#) as soon as possible. John can be contacted on (07) 3224 2389.

Australian Government in caretaker role

As you will all be aware, the Australian Government elections have been called. This means the current Australian Government is now in a “caretaker role”. The caretaker period begins at the time the House of Representatives is dissolved and continues until the election result is clear or, if there is a change of government, until the new government is appointed.

During the caretaker period, the business of government continues and ordinary matters of administration still need to be addressed. However, successive governments have followed a series of practices, known as the ‘caretaker conventions’, which aim to ensure that their actions do not bind an incoming government and limit its freedom of action. In summary, the conventions are that the government avoids:

- making major policy decisions that are likely to commit an incoming government
- making significant appointments
- entering major contracts or undertakings

This may result in some delays in the processing of some of the regional NRM bodies financial applications and other binding documentation. For further information on this topic please visit the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet web site www.dpmc.gov.au/docs/caretaker.cfm.

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