

Regional NRM Bugle



KEY MESSAGES 08/10/04

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Performance and financial reporting due next week

Regional NRM bodies performance and financial reports are due on the 14th October. This is the second major performance review by the Joint Australian and Queensland Government Steering Committee (JSC) this year. Things are looking very positive after the information session held in July, with the attendees of that meeting helping to craft systems that support the reporting progress.

If anyone is still having problems with the new and improved reporting system, please contact either Jodie Cain on 3224 7850 or John Keating on 3224 2389 and they will be more than happy to assist you.

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Major progress with regional NRM plans

The Joint Australian and Queensland Government Steering Committee (JSC) are going to be kept very busy over the next couple of months with the review of all of the regional NRM plans and regional investment strategies (RIS) that have been submitted or are close to submission. The JSC are very pleased about this, as it reflects the growing success of the regional arrangements process.

The [Condamine Alliance](#), [Fitzroy Basin Association](#) (FBA), [Queensland Murray Darling Committee](#) (QMDC) and South West Natural Resource Management Group have all completed their regional NRM plans. Both FBA and QMDC have submitted their RIS to the JSC for approval.

[Desert Channels Queensland Inc](#) and South East Queensland Western Catchments Group have completed their community consultation process and are now editing their plans for final submission. Both Far North Queensland NRM Ltd and [Southern Gulf Catchments](#) are currently in their draft public consultation processes.

[Burdekin Dry Tropics Board](#), Cape York, [Natural Resource Management South East Queensland Inc](#), [Mackay Whitsunday NRM Group](#) and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group draft plans are all being reviewed either by the Regional Coordination Groups or the JSC. The [Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM](#) are very close to completing their draft plan ready for review, while the Torres Strait group have formed and now have a planning team in place that have commenced the planning process.

I am sure you would all agree that this reflects some major progress and everyone should be proud of their successes.

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NRM SEQ seek approval for their draft NRM plan

South East Queensland has a population of over 1.6 million people. Given the difficulties involved in starting a business in a region with this many people, groups, organisations, environmental complexities and politics, the fact that they have achieved so much is a tremendous tribute to both the staff and the Board.

After having their first staff member appointed in only September last year, they have grown, expanded and succeeded at a breathtaking rate. They are within weeks of finishing their draft plan and seeking the approval of the Joint Australian and Queensland Government Steering Committee (JSC) for release for public comment.

The plan has been produced in-house and they have consulted extensively so that it best reflects the wishes and desires of the membership.

NRM SEQ regional NRM plan is currently with the Regional Coordination Group for an assessment of suitability for submission to the JSC and then being distributed for public consultation.

Visit the [Natural Resource Management South East Queensland Inc](#) web site to find out more.

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Grants available for local natural resource projects

Local Landcare and catchment management groups will benefit from a \$100 000 state government grant program designed to encourage greater community involvement in natural resource management (NRM).

Applications are now open for community groups to apply for funding under the Community Natural Resource Awareness Activity Grants program 2005.

Grants of up to \$2500 each are available to Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, Waterwatch and other community NRM groups to develop small, innovative

and creative promotional projects in partnership with community, school, youth or business groups and/or local government.

Successful applicants have until the end of May 2005 to complete their projects that will feature during Queensland Resources Week, from 22-29 May.

Applications for the community grants program close on Friday December 17, 2004.

Guidelines and application forms are available from NR&M's web site at www.nrm.qld.gov.au/community/ca_grants.html

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New information and lay out to the NR&M salinity pages

Our fight against salinity has been primarily directed at the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) over the past two years and we have made great progress with the formation of regional NRM bodies and the development of their regional NRM plans and NAPSWQ Priority Action Projects.

There are however, other groups of dedicated project officers, scientists and most importantly, community members who are undertaking other non-NAPSWQ salinity projects. They are involved in projects such as the *Salinity investigations using airborne geophysics in the Lower Balonne area, Southern Queensland*; the *Review of salinity occurrences in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin*; and the *Preliminary assessment of salinity risk modelling in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin*. All of the projects have added in the fight against salinity in Queensland.

To learn more about these projects or salinity please visit the [NR&M web site](#)

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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

