

Regional NRM Bugle



KEY MESSAGES 05/11/04

- Community engagement over coffee
- Specialist register available
- New capacity building network
- Indigenous Liaison Network set up

Community engagement over coffee

In Brisbane last month, Sue Middleton of Grassroots Community Development in Western Australia facilitated a coffee-shop-style conversation about community engagement in natural resource management (NRM). About 35 people from various Queensland Government departments took part in the discussion, including representatives from most of the work units within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Sue shared her experiences engaging the community in one of the NRM planning regions in WA. Afterwards, the group discussed some of the points raised by Sue, including:

- inspiring people to try again
- the dichotomy between practice and principles
- 'there is no right or wrong in engagement.'

Specialist register available

Many regional natural resource management bodies are using social and economic assessment and analysis experts to help them develop their plans and investment strategies. To help them locate these experts, a [specialist register](#) has been established. The register contains details on each expert's skills and experience. For a password to access the register, contact [Jeanette Stanley](#) on 07 3224 7741.

New capacity building network

People interested in capacity building and the social aspects of natural resource management are being invited to join a network of like-minded people. The network is being set up by Jenny Awbery, a member of the Capacity Support Team, part of Strategic Policy and Regional Arrangements. The members of the network will be able to share their views, knowledge and experience. To join the network or for more information, contact Jenny via [email](#).

Indigenous Liaison Network set up

An Indigenous Liaison Network has been established thanks to funding from the Natural Heritage Trust Extension (the Trust) program. Queensland's regional NRM bodies have used the money to employ Indigenous facilitators, who make up the network's membership. The network is coordinated by [Melissa George](#), currently based in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region. For more information, contact [Ross Williams](#) on 07 3224 7894.

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