

Regional NRM Bugle



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Economic-incentives programs

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) is making resources available to help regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies develop economic incentives programs. The programs are designed to encourage landholders to improve their on-ground NRM practices; most NRM bodies have allocated funding for economic incentives in their regional investment strategies. Under SE05, one of the five socio-economic State-level investment programs, each NRM body will be able to access \$100 000 to design, implement and monitor their economic incentives programs. "Research and experience in other states has found that the initial design phase is critical to the success of an incentives program," says Jim Binney, the head of NR&M's social and economic unit.

The unit plans to provide information to NRM bodies to help them better understand, select and develop economic incentives programs. The information will cover issues such as:

- Choosing between different incentive mechanisms
- Developing rate rebate programs with local councils
- Provision of stewardship payments
- Efficient delivery of devolved grants
- Use of tender mechanisms to provide incentives
- Developing cost-sharing arrangements for the provision of incentives
- Information for landholders on the tax status of incentive payments and costs incurred in undertaking actions under incentive programs
- Generic contract for NRM bodies to use to formalise the provision of incentives to landholders.

The social and economic unit will also assist the NRM bodies evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the economic incentives programs they adopt –

and share the learnings with other NRM bodies. For more information, contact [Beth Clouston](#) on (07) 3224 7734.

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Interviews provide benchmark

The Healthy Savanna Planning Systems project team recently interviewed over 40 regional natural resource management body chairs, executive officers, planners and Regional Coordination Group members throughout Queensland. The interviews – part of the first stage of the three-year project – will be used to help benchmark the current state of regional NRM planning and identify opportunities for improvement. The project team will report its interview findings to the Regional Groups Collective in February next year. Project manager [Bruce Taylor](#) thanked the interviewees, adding that the remaining interviews would be completed in the next few weeks. For more information, telephone Bruce on (07) 3214 2638.

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Planners' workshop in pipeline

A workshop that will give regional bodies and other planners an opportunity to share their professional experiences will be held in February next year. Hosted by the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), the Coastal CRC and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the workshop will focus on good planning practice and the use of technical information in developing and reviewing NRM plans. For more information, telephone [Geoff McDonald](#) on (07) 3214 2290.

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Tin miner's daughter joins team

[Kate Eden](#) has joined the Strategic Policy and Regional Arrangements unit (SPRA). Kate developed an interest in rural-change management growing up as a tin miner's daughter in Herberton and went on to earn a degree in organisational psychology. After doing community development work for the Atherton Neighbourhood Centre for seven years, she joined the Department of Communities, where she helped set up a new Ministerial Regional Community Forum. As a member of SPRA's Regional Arrangements and Planning Team, Kate is looking forward to exploring the concept of using natural resource management as a catalyst for community engagement and capacity building.

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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