

Regional NRM Bugle



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New information management guidelines

Natural resource management (NRM) data and information-use workshops continue to be presented to members of the NAPSWQ-funded regional bodies. These practical, hands-on workshops teach participants how to use GPS and GIS to discover, visualise, evaluate, capture, manage and map Queensland's NRM data and information. The workshop materials, including the training booklets, presentations and hands-on exercises, are currently being compiled into a set of best practice guidelines. The guidelines are expected to be distributed to regional NRM bodies in March 2005. For more information about the Regional Information Services Framework project (IMO1), contact [Ken Adsett](#) on 4938 4598.

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Peak-bodies meeting a 'success'

A Regional Arrangements Advisory Group (RAAG) meeting held in Brisbane earlier this week – the second to date – has been described as a success. So much so that the group's members want the next meeting, on 17 February 2005, to be increased from half-a-day to a whole day. Comprising 15 peak bodies representing rural, environmental and commercial interests, among others, RAAG provides its members with a forum to address regional natural resource management (NRM) issues, particularly those that affect their constituents. The group aims to foster partnerships, share information, discuss policy and identify opportunities to co-invest with regional NRM bodies. At this week's meeting the group's membership was increased to include the Aboriginal Local Government Association of Queensland. RAAG's main focus next year will be the Queensland Government's green paper looking at options for the State's future regional NRM arrangements. For more information about the group, contact [Anne Stuart](#) on 3224 7505.

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Advice on retaining volunteers

Poor volunteer management results in more lost volunteers than people losing interest because of changing personal or family needs, a recent study in the United States has found. The study, undertaken by the United Parcel Service Foundation, found that the best way for volunteer organisations to receive more hours of volunteer service is to be careful managers of the time already being volunteered. Retention of volunteers was one of the topics presented at a recent workshop in Brisbane by Steve McCurley, an internationally known trainer, speaker, author and consultant in the field of effective volunteer involvement. For copies of Mr McCurley's articles, visit the [e-Volunteerism website](#).

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Correction: In last week's Bugle we incorrectly stated that each regional NRM body would be able to access \$100 000 under the SE05 project to design, implement and monitor their economic incentives programs. In fact, this money is available only to the six National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality-funded regional bodies – our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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