

Regional NRM Bugle



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Burnett Mary plan out for consultation

The Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) has released its draft regional natural resource management plan, *Country to Coast – A Healthy Sustainable Future*, for public consultation. The consultation period opened last Monday and will close on 12 January 2005. A copy of the plan will be available from Monday 6 December at www.burnettmarynrm.org.au; alternatively, you can telephone the BMRG on 4132 8333.

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QWaLC funding agreement finalised

A funding agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) was officially finalised this week. The agreement provides QWaLC with \$200 000 each year for the next three years to represent and support Queensland's natural resource management (NRM) volunteers. QWaLC, based in Brisbane, will assume some of the responsibilities of the former Landcare and Catchment Management Council (LCMC). One of its immediate priorities will be the implementation of a new registration system for Queensland's community NRM groups, which number about 450. For more information about QWaLC, contact [Brenda Walhain](#) on 3211 4409.

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Draft property planning manual

Early next year external stakeholders, such as community catchment groups, will be invited to comment on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' draft property resource management planning (PRMP) manual. The manual builds on a set of PRMP guidelines that were distributed last year as part of the public consultation

on the draft State Rural Leasehold Land Strategy. The manual is aimed at any landholder who wants to develop a PRMP, not just leaseholders. It includes an example of a grazing PRMP, to help landholders conceptualise what a plan for their property might look like. For more information about the draft manual, contact [Tony Caltabiano](#) on 3896 3890.

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Wentworth Group member at symposium

Wentworth Group member Dr John Williams will be the keynote speaker at a regional natural resource management (NRM) symposium being hosted by the Burnett Mary Regional Group at the Central Queensland University's Bundaberg campus on December 8 and 9. The symposium, entitled 'Farmland to Fraser: How to grow a region – science + community', will feature four themes: Best Practice Natural Resource Management; Lifestyle and Heritage; Sustainable Use; and The Way Forward. The themes will be taken up by a host of speakers representing community groups, NRM bodies, the Indigenous sector and the science fraternity, at a national, state and regional level. The free symposium is open to everyone. For more information, contact [Glenda George](#) on 4132 8333.

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OHS and risk-management program underway

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is trialing a program designed to assist community conservation groups improve their occupational health and safety (OHS) and risk-management practices. There are 12 groups taking part in the national trial, including two from Queensland – one in Atherton, the other in Yeppoon. CVA expects to complete desktop surveys of all the groups by the end of this year and, based on the results, will tailor training and support programs to help them meet benchmark standards. Project manager Garry Snowden says community conservation groups tend to pay insufficient attention to OHS and risk-management issues. "These groups naturally focus on their environmental mission and tend not assign priority to risk management; what we're trying to do is help them put in place risk assessment procedures and the documentation they will need for legal and financial protection in the event someone is injured and a claim is made against them." Although the Natural Heritage Trust-funded trial involves only a limited number of groups, the training-and-resource kit it generates is expected to be of benefit to community conservation groups in general. For more information, visit the [CVA website](#) or Freecall 1800 032 501.

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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