

Regional NRM Bugle



11 February 2005

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Regional Arrangements Advisory Group update

The Regional Arrangements Advisory Group (RAAG) held a special meeting on 24 January this year to discuss the process for the Green Paper. It will meet again on 17 February to progress their work plan. The Deputy Director General, Integrated Resource Management, Scott Spencer, will spend an hour with stakeholders discussing a range of issues. At each meeting particular sectors make presentations. At this meeting Agforce and the conservation sector will present their views on natural resource management issues and promote their sector's achievements. NR&M and EPA officers will also talk about science, state of region reporting and regional investment strategies. For more information contact [Anne Stuart](#) on 07 3224 7505

Carryover of RIS

It is anticipated that a significant number of regional bodies will have their regional Investment Strategies approved in February and March of 2005. Regional bodies have expressed a concern that it would not be responsible for them to spend the balance of their 04 - 05 indicative allocation in the time remaining in this financial year.

The Joint Steering Committee has agreed to allow regional bodies to transfer any unspent (in April - June 2005) indicative allocation for this financial year, to the first two quarters of the next financial year, July - December 2005. This will allow regional bodies to allocate their funding more evenly over these three quarters. Any transfer of funds unspent in the last quarter of 2004 - 05 will not effect the previously established allocations for the first two financial quarters of 2005 - 06 (July - September and October - December 2005).

For more information please contact [John Keating](#) on 07 3224 2389

Regional Body Communication Officers Workshop

Communication officers from 10 regional bodies met in Brisbane this week to share ideas and gain new skills. After a day of motivating and educational presentations from a number of industry leaders, the second day focused on regional bodies presenting their own products. Hundreds of high quality marketing tools were presented, ranging from mobile display units to catchment maps and key rings. Many helpful tips and ideas were transferred between communication officers and all reported that the two days were extremely helpful.

In 2004 Samantha Denley from Queensland Murray Darling Committee and Sharon Marks from Fitzroy Basin Association began discussing how much regional bodies could learn from one another and how isolated communications officers would benefit from a closer peer group. They approached the Queensland Regional NRM Communication Group Executive for assistance in organising training and skills sharing workshop for regional body communication officers. The Executive approved assistance with funding for a venue and catering, leaving regional bodies responsible for their own transport and accommodation.

The regional bodies communication workshop is a great example of the success of the regional arrangements process in empowering the community. Two years ago it was the State Government that was organising meetings and inviting representatives from regional bodies to discuss the future communication needs. Now just two years on, it is regional bodies organising their own workshop and inviting the State Government representatives to attend as partners. For more information please contact [Shona Strachan](#) or [Carl Glen](#).

We welcome your input and feedback on this newsletter. If you have any contributions, comments or suggestions please contact [Shona Strachan](#) or [Carl Glen](#).