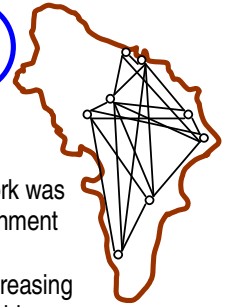


Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Bulletin April 2005



Plan Sign Off for the BDTB

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Natural Resource Management Plan has been signed off by the Commonwealth Ministers. This is the final step in the accreditation process. It is expected that the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) will receive final approval, Ministerial sign off, shortly to enable the funds to flow for plan implementation.

The RIS is the funding component for programs outlined as priority actions in the Regional NRM Plan. Based on a rolling three year program, the RIS is revised each year for the following twelve-month period and resubmitted to secure funding. This will apply to the end of this financial year.

A proportion of the funds are guaranteed for the upcoming financial years with the balance of funds dependent on the revised RIS. In essence this provides a pathway for amendment of actions and programs to align with progress and enable necessary changes. It also provides an ongoing opportunity for involvement in implementation.

Funds for the RIS will be provided from the two main Commonwealth sources; the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust. Funds and in kind resources are also provided by the States to match the Commonwealth funds. Other resources, mostly in kind, are provided by community members and other organisations to help implement the Regional NRM Plan.

Local Government Involvement

Local government is seen as a key partner in rolling out various programs in the Regional NRM Plan. This is now closer to reality through the operation of the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM).

Formed around twelve months ago the network was initially intended as a pathway for local government input to the Regional NRM Plan. The overall intention of the network is as a conduit for increasing local government capacity in NRM and to enable Councils to effectively participate in NRM activities and planning processes outside 'normal' Council business.

Improving the Network Workshops

To assist Councils to benefit from the Regional NRM Plan we need to align NRM activities local government is involved in with the programs that are documented in the Regional NRM Plan. This has been done in a general way during the planning process and now needs to be done in more detail at the individual Council level.

To help achieve this integration workshops will be held in May and June with network Councils to:

- Map the network (with a view to improving communication processes);
- Determine current Council NRM activities;
- Determine Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels;
- Determine 'products' associated with Council NRM activities e.g. educational material.

Landcare Revitalisation

National Landcare Program funding has been secured to help revitalise Landcare activities in the Burdekin Dry Tropics Coastal Plan. Part of the project involves a devolved grant scheme for landholders to access funds for on ground activities.

The network will be working closely with the new coordinators especially in the area of weed management. For more information on the Landcare project contact Carl or Claude on 47836415 (Ayr).

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