

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Bulletin August 2004

Progress of the Draft Regional NRM Plan

Recent events have seen local government provide input to the draft Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional NRM Plan using feedback provided by members of the BDT Regional Local Government Network.

The draft Plan has been through its first round of 'official' reviews in the form of the Northern Region Coordinating Committee (NRCC). The NRCC is made up of State agencies and relevant Commonwealth bodies e.g. GBRMPA. The NRCC provides comments on the plan with respect to the policies and programs of each of the agencies and any combined initiatives they may be involved in.

Local government feedback was considered at the same time as the comments received from the NRCC and associated agencies were being incorporated into the draft plan. Without input from the network at that stage the voice of local government would have been significantly diluted, albeit unintentional.

The next stage in the process is the submission of the amended draft plan to the Joint Steering Committee, consisting of both Commonwealth and Queensland government representatives, for approval prior to public release. It is anticipated by the Burdekin Dry Tropics Board that the draft plan will be released for public comment sometime during September (most likely later than sooner).

The network, and individual Councils, will have a final opportunity to provide input to the Regional NRM Plan during the public display stage. Again a combined submission will provide greater weight to the local government perspective and we would like to maximise that

opportunity by presenting a united response to the draft plan when it is released.

While the Regional Investment Strategy will provide details of future NRM funding the priority management actions are drawn from the draft plan and prioritised through input to the plan. Any late comments can still be incorporated and will be a valued contribution.

The Regional Investment Strategy

Input to the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) is the next priority for the local government network as this the component of the overall regional plan that defines the 'what, when, who and how much' of plan implementation.

We have been advised that a draft RIS will not be released until all parties involved, or potentially involved, have had time to consider the draft regional plan and its implications.

Network Meeting

Accordingly, we plan to hold a local government network meeting on Monday 27th of September at the Townsville City Council Chambers review the process. It will be a forum to:

- Update everyone on the planning process;
- Discuss the draft plan and implications for local government;
- Develop a combined local government response to the draft regional NRM plan;
- Provide an overview of the RIS and allow feedback for compilation of a local government perspective/response.

Further information including; invitations, agenda and draft Management Action costings will be sent to network members prior to the meeting.

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with;
Belyando
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