

# Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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## Rubber on the Road

The Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Plan is being rolled out as fast as practically possible according to Burdekin Dry Tropics (BDT) NRM CEO Bob Frazer. Bob provided an overview of the activities of BDT NRM at the March meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils – North Queensland (HESROC).

From July to December 2005 BDT NRM has spent and committed around \$4.1m in funds to ongoing and new projects including setting up the necessary systems and processes to operate as a 'business'.

An additional \$4.3m worth of tendered projects are currently being advertised and commissioned and another \$1.6m worth of smaller projects are currently being assessed for the most appropriate delivery method. Given the compressed timeframe for the delivery of the BDT NRM Plan there will be some flexibility in carrying funds over to the next financial year.

Regional NRM groups are hopeful that the ongoing arrangements for NRM across Australia will be announced well in advance of the cessation of current arrangements i.e. June 2008.

## New NRM Working Group

HESROC resolved to form a Natural Resource Management Working Group at its March meeting following representation from BDT NRM CEO Bob Frazer. The HESROC NRM Working Group will be the first part of the local government Partnership Panel for the Burdekin Dry Tropics.

One of the first functions of the NRM Working Group will be to provide feedback on the BDT NRM Plan and Regional Investment Strategy for the review process, which will take place in April and May this year.

## The Missing Link

BDT NRM is still working on how to engage the non-HESROC Councils in the Partnership Panel and has

been offered the services of the BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM) to act as the conduit for engagement.

Given the relationships developed and the successful use of the Network over the past two years it would seem to be the most effective way to progress the development of the local government Partnership Panel.

## Local Government Crucial to Regional NRM

According to BDT NRM CEO Bob Frazer local government involvement is crucial to the successful implementation of regional natural resource management outcomes in the Burdekin Dry Tropics.

The BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM) was set up to build NRM capacity and provide a conduit between individual Councils and between the Network and the Burdekin Dry Tropics regional NRM group and sub regional groups.

The Network was the primary source of combined local government input to the BDT Regional NRM Plan and RIS and again could be used to coordinate input to the Plan review process.

## Envirofund Round 8

April 28<sup>th</sup> is the due date for applications for the latest round of the Australian Government Envirofund.

Local government can apply for up to \$50,000 in a sponsorship/partnership role with community groups or individuals.

Application forms, guidelines and plenty of helpful hints are available at: [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund)

## BDT NRM - Current Tenders

No new tenders on the BDT NRM website.

## Bulletins and Project Products on the Website

[www.hesroc-nq.org.au](http://www.hesroc-nq.org.au) and follow the link to the BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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