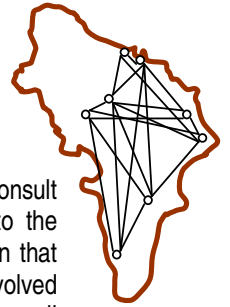


Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Bulletin November 2005



Defeating the Weeds Menace

An application to the Federal Government's *Defeating the Weeds Menace* program was recently submitted on behalf of the Network in order to facilitate a coordinated regional approach to weed management across the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Region.

The application was submitted via HESROC-NQ with the main aim being the development of a weed management strategy covering Councils in the BDT region and HESROC areas.

Some adjoining NRM regions have already developed weed management strategies and it is the intent of the project to link with these existing strategies and incorporate relevant components into the Burdekin Dry Tropics weed management strategy. Integration not duplication.

Linkages and networking with other NRM regions, Regional Organisations of Councils and state agencies is seen as a strong point of the project.

Major outputs include development of a coordinated regional weed mapping and monitoring system and integration of components of existing Council Pest Management Plans into the regional weed management strategy.

Notification of the success or otherwise of the application is expected in March 2006.

We understood that most councils are already stretched to meet obligations in relation to pest management. This project has been designed to assist Councils access [future] resources to carry out regional and sub regional projects, or local components of larger projects. It is the strategic level project that Councils don't have time to do alone.

As there was no time available to properly consult Councils about the project application prior to the submission date we made the bold assumption that all Network Councils would support and be involved in the project. We are available to answer all questions about the project and sort out any issues or concerns that your Council may have.

Local Government Partnership Panel

Meeting/s to establish the representation and operation of the Local Government Partnership Panel have been deferred to early 2006 by the Burdekin Dry Tropics Board (BDTB). Things got a bit hectic following the arrival of Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) funds and all hands have been involved in getting the rubber on the road. The BDTB will notify Councils directly about the situation.

Setting Up for Action

The BDTB has been busy setting up for project delivery including employment of key staff to manage operations.

Several new BDTB project positions look set to be housed with local government throughout the region. Confirmed so far are a Coastal Planning Officer and a NRM and Climate Change Officer (title to be determined) to be hosted by Burdekin Shire Council.

The BDTB has also indicated that they intend to employ a regional pest and weed extension officer, who would be available to assist with the *Defeating the Weeds Menace* project if it is successful.

More information in the next issue.

Project Products on the Website

www.hesroc-nq.org.au and follow the link under Projects to the BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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