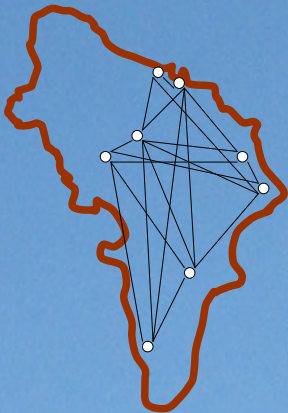


Burdekin Dry Tropics Local Government NRM Activities and Skills Inventory

July 2005



**Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional
Local Government Network (NRM)**



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Full title
BBIFMAC	Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
BDT	Burdekin Dry Tropics
BDTB	Burdekin Dry Tropics Board
BRIG	Burdekin Rangelands Implementation Group
BSIG	Belyando-Suttor Implementation Group
CEO	Chief Executive Organisation
DNR & M	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EMS	Environmental Management Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HESROC	Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils – North Queensland
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
LAWMAC	Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee
LG	Local Government
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NaREF	Natural Resources and Environment Forum for the Townsville and Thuringowa Coastal Plains
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRM Plan	Regional Natural Resource Management Plan
RIS	Regional Investment Strategy
RIT	River Improvement Trust
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
RPAC	Regional Planning Advisory Committee
SIP	State Investment Plan (for NAP)
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
WHaMBROC	Whitsunday Hinterland and Mackay Bowen Regional Organisation of Councils

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1. BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

1.1 Background

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM) is a relatively new network consisting of the local governments in the Burdekin Dry Tropics (BDT) natural resource management (NRM) region. The NRM regions are defined by the Commonwealth and State government for the purposes of delivering NRM support and funding under various programs, especially the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). A map of the BDT region showing the local government areas is provided as Figure 1-1.

1.2 Burdekin Dry Tropics Region

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Board (BDTB) was formed following the announcement of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality in October 2000 and subsequently took on the task of developing a Regional NRM Plan (the Plan) as required under the NAP and NHT funding arrangements. The BDTB has become the main avenue for the delivery of community based NRM in the Burdekin Dry Tropics and the Plan will enable and support voluntary localised and regional community action to deliver sustainable NRM outcomes.

The Burdekin Dry Tropics is a large region (approximately 133,400 square kilometres). It was deemed necessary to adopt a sub-regional consultative approach to develop the NRM Plan to ensure wide community participation and input. Sub-regional groups were already in existence from the previous NRM Strategy development process under NHT Stage 1 and these groups were subsequently recruited to provide the sub-regional input. The exception was the Belyando-Suttor Implementation Group (BSIG), which was formed when the Belyando -Suttor catchment was added to the 'old' Burdekin Dry Tropics region. The emphasis placed on the sub-regional approach, along with a substantial Indigenous engagement program, reduced the potential support for engaging local government in the planning process.

1.3 HESROC / BDTB Project

The Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils - North Queensland (HESROC) and the BDTB recognised the need for greater involvement of local government in the regional NRM planning process. HESROC and the BDTB entered into a partnership to build the capacity of local government in the Burdekin Dry Tropics. The concept was to build relationships with all the Councils in the region and develop processes for effective engagement and involvement of Councils in NRM, principally at the regional and sub-regional levels.

The first stage in the HESROC – BDTB initiative was a project titled ***Local Government Involvement in the Burdekin Dry Tropics Accredited Regional Natural Resource Management Plan***.

This involved the establishment of an 'informal' network, the ***Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)*** (the Network). The Network was initially based on the HESROC member Councils and subsequently expanded to include the non-HESROC Councils within the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM region.

The second stage was funded through CB07, a State Investment Plan (SIP) project. A component of the second stage project involved a situation assessment. The need for a situation assessment became more evident at a regional stakeholders workshop in March 2005, which focused on the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS). One of the initial exercises was to determine what was happening in the region and what NRM programs were required to be delivered through the RIS.

The original local government skills inventory proposed as part of the CB07 project was subsequently expanded to include local government NRM activities and associated education resources.

This report provides the results of the expanded skills inventory investigations carried out for the CB07 project.

Figure 1-1 Burdekin Dry Tropics Local Government areas



CSIRO, Sustainable Ecosystems, 2002

2. Skills Inventory

2.1 Expanded Aims – New Approach

The March 2005 RIS workshop highlighted the need for a fundamental change in approach to improve the outcomes for local government involvement in regional NRM. While a local government NRM skills register was originally designed to be the main end product of the skills inventory exercise a number of other outcomes have been advanced through the expanded format of the skills inventory workshops.

The approach adopted for the precursor project, and continued to some extent with CB07, was to elicit feedback from individual Councils on the areas of the NRM Plan and RIS they would be interested in participating in. As the regional NRM planning process was not particularly suited to this approach a broad strategic overview approach was used to propose general areas where some form of local government involvement was likely. The detail could then be developed as an ongoing process of consultation and negotiation associated with the delivery arrangements for the NRM Plan.

The original idea behind the skills inventory was to provide each local government with a better understanding of the strengths and experience of their staff, with particular emphasis on NRM activities. This would then enable each Council to participate in the development of delivery arrangements for the NRM Plan with a greater depth of knowledge about their ability to participate and contribute.

The inventory would also enable local governments in the Network to view the combined strengths of Councils and propose joint venture arrangements based on those strengths. Needs would also be identified as part of the process and capacity building tools could then be developed to fill the gaps. The possibility also exists for skill sharing between Councils as a 'separate' capacity enhancing process.

While the skills inventory was initially conceived as a stand alone process the need was recognised to expand the concept and capture as much NRM inventory information as possible to both assist local government internal processes and capacity as well as enabling each Council to make better informed decisions on their capacity to be involved and/or deliver various components of the NRM Plan.

Part of the capacity of local government to be involved in regional NRM involves the improvement of the operation of the Network. The effective operation of the network is determined to a large degree by the effectiveness of the communication and reporting processes. The expanded skills inventory exercise included a review of communication processes for each local government with respect to the Network and other NRM activities. Results of the communication review are included in the Communication Strategy.

Other 'inventory' areas explored during the expanded skills inventory exercise were:

- The NRM activities each Council is involved in, both internal and external; and
- The educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities.

2.2 Drivers and Guides

Local government is responsible to its constituents for the administration of public funds to provide services across the local government area. As such a variety of policy and 'business' plans guide the direction of Councils in their activities. Local government also has a range of legislative requirements to fulfil and these requirements often involve the development and implementation of strategies and plans. While some of the plans are relatively specific and are not related to NRM there are a number of plans, which are either directly or indirectly associated with NRM, or administration of NRM outcomes. The main local government NRM related plans are described briefly below along with the legislative drivers.

2.2.1 Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan is the main 'business' plan of Council providing strategic direction and summarising the policy driving the strategic direction. The Corporate Plan is usually developed on a four or five year cycle and is accompanied by an annual Operations Plan, which provides the detail and budget for the works and programs that are carried out by Council. As the overarching direction setter the Corporate Plan requires direction setting for NRM activities if the subject is to be taken seriously by Council. Without the direction setting in the Corporate Plan the Operational Plans will have little guidance or imperative to undertake NRM activities beyond the legislative requirements. The seat of power for Corporate and Operations Plans is the Local Government Act.

2.2.2 Planning Scheme

The Planning Scheme provides a guide for development within a local government area and establishes criteria for assessing development applications. The relationship between development and natural resources has been emphasised under the Integrated Planning Act with the purpose of the Act being the achievement of 'ecological sustainability'.

2.2.3 Pest Management Plans

The Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 is the primary act for the control of plant and animal pest species in Queensland. It defines the type of plants and animals that are considered pest species and the level of control required to be undertaken by landholders in relation to each declared pest. The Act also defines the major role local government has in controlling pests and administering sections of the Act. This includes the development of Pest Management Plans and Stock Route Management Plans.

2.2.4 Waste Management Strategy

Waste Management is defined as a local government function under the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 which has its head of power in the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Waste is predominantly disposed of as land fill.

2.2.5 Urban Stormwater Management Plans

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997 local authorities with formal stormwater systems are required to develop Urban Stormwater Management Plans.

2.2.6 Integrated Environmental Management Strategy and Systems

Integrated Environmental Management Strategies and Integrated Environmental Management Systems (IEMS) are voluntary arrangements, which can be accredited under ISO 14001. An IEMS generally covers all the activities undertaken by Council, which have the potential to result in environmental impacts, and provides prescriptive measures to ensure no environmental harm is caused by the activities.

2.2.7 Other Plans and Strategies

Local government produces a variety of other plans and strategies as the need arises. Most of these are done on a voluntary basis sometimes in consultation with focus groups or community reference panels. Local government is also involved in the development of plans and strategies as a stakeholder e.g. transport infrastructure plans and coastal management plans. Non-legislation driven local government plans and strategies include:

- Total Water Cycle Management Plan;
- Tourism and Economic Development Strategies;
- Open Space Plan;
- Cultural Heritage Plans;
- Communications Strategy.

Some of the main legislative drivers of local government plans and actions are listed in Table 2-1 along with the government department responsible for administration of the legislation. More information on the legislation is provided in Appendix L.

Table 2-1 Legislative Drivers for Council NRM Activities

Legislation	Administrative Agency
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act or EPBCA)	C'wealth Department of Environment and Heritage
Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Regulations	Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997	Environmental Protection Agency
Fisheries Act 1994	Dept of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975	C'wealth Department of Environment and Heritage
Integrated Planning Act 1997	Dept of Local Government and Planning
Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002	Dept of Natural Resources and Mines
Local Government Act 1993	Dept of Local Government and Planning
Marine Parks Act 1982	Environmental Protection Agency
Nature Conservation Act 1992	Environmental Protection Agency
State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971	Dept of State Development and Innovation
Vegetation Management Act 1999	Dept of Natural Resources and Mines
Water Act 2000	Dept of Natural Resources and Mines

3. Gathering the Information

3.1 Workshops

The main method for information gathering and content and process mapping involved a series of workshops and meetings with the main network members from each Council. Where necessary further information was gathered after the workshops and added to the results. Councils and workshop dates are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 NRM Skills Inventory Workshops/Meetings

Council	Date	Participants
Nebo Shire	17 5 05	Mark Crawley (CEO) and Reg Norman (Technical Officer)
Belyando Shire	18 5 05	John Torpy (CEO)
Mirani Shire	19 5 05	Ray Geraghty (CEO), Dave Price (Mayor) and Cr Paul Tippet
Burdekin Shire	25 5 05	Mark Allpress (Dir Planning and Environment)
Charters Towers City	26 5 05	Mick Langburne (EHO) and Brian Beveridge (Mayor)
Dalrymple Shire	15 6 05	Raymon Jayo (Dir. Administrative Services)
Jericho Shire	28 6 05	Des Howard (CEO)
Bowen Shire	25 7 05	John Finlay (CEO)

3.2 Other Sources

Due to their size, staff numbers and the complexity of the NRM activities Thuringowa and Townsville City Councils were consulted on a different basis. The approach was to gather information from individual staff members and collate it into a results package and then have the results confirmed by the manager of the environmental management section of each Council. People consulted from each Council are listed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Other Consultation

Council	Consulted	Project or Program Area
Thuringowa City	Rachel Allan	Environmental Officer primarily involved in coastal management initiatives
	Shaun Warner	Pest Management
Townsville City	Shane Guest Mark Davis	Natural Area Management Integrated Environmental Management & sustainability
	DJ Mackenzie	Coordinator Creek to Coral
Joint Initiatives	Libby Guest	Community Environment Fund
	Greg Bruce	Centre for Excellence in Tropical Design (Sustainability and Innovation)
	Grant Steen (HESROC)	Regional Waste Management Strategy - LAWMAC

Notes: LAWMAC is Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee

3.3 Council Statistics

General differences between the Councils of the Burdekin Dry Tropics can be gauged by looking at some simple statistics (see Table 3-3). In broad terms Councils with the highest number of square kilometres per staff member have the least capacity to maintain their assets and engage in natural resource management above and beyond their core duties. At times attending to core duties stretches Council resources. It appears that these Councils require the most assistance in natural resource management matters.

Table 3-3 BDT Council Statistics

	Belyando	Bowen	Burdekin	Charters Towers	Dalrymple	Jericho	Mirani	Nebo	Thuringowa	Townsville
Area (sq. km)	30,281	21,177	5,053	42	68,346	21,873	3,280	10,035	1,867	1,869
Population '04	10,524	12,566	18,636	8,832	3,485	1,101	5,299	2,144	57,488	97,923
Pop'n Density	0.35	0.59	3.69	210	0.05	0.05	1.62	0.21	29.7	52.4
Council Staff	~140	~120	~220	~60	~124	~50	~60	~52	~442	~1100
Pop'n per staff	75	105	85	147	28	22	88	41	130	89
% of Pop'n	1.3%	0.95%	1.2%	0.7%	3.6%	4.5%	1.1%	2.4%	0.8%	1.1%
Sq km per staff	216	176	23	0.7	551	438	55	193	4.2	1.7
Population, population change and projected population change										
Population '04	10,524	12,566	18,636	8,832	3,485	1,101	5,299	2,144	57,488	97,923
Popn change '04	24	20	-25	16	-33	30	7	-16	1,497	1,976
Natural	142	37	86	32	33	12	27	30	638	633
Migration	-118	-17	-111	-16	66	18	-20	-46	859	1,343
Growth Rate	0.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.9%	2.8%	0.1%	-0.7%	2.7%	2.1%
'03 Population	10,488	12,532	18,640	8,806	3,514	1,070	5,286	2,157	55,888	95,837
'03 Popn change	261	15	26	17	34	-29	-22	63	1,431	1,940
'03 Growth	2.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	1%	-2.6%	-0.4%	2.3%	2.6%	2.1%
'02 Population	10,239	12,531	18,635	8,799	3,484	1,100	5,314	2,097	54,520	94,007
'01 Population	9,948	12,409	18,512	8,751	3,491	1,094	5,283	2,094	52,715	92,074
'96 Populatin	10,759	13,142	18,955	9,023	3,439	1,040	5,019	2,257	45,410	86,715
2011 Proj Low	9,848	12,200	17,700	8,200	3,340	1,060	5,860	1,910	67,700	103,000
2011 Proj High	15,666	12,800	18,500	8,550	3,530	1,160	6,160	2,060	70,100	107,600

Note: Population is estimated resident population at 30 June 2004. Population increase is from previous year.

Pop'n Density is population density is the number of people per square kilometre.

Pop'n per staff is the number of people in the Council area for each Council staff member.

% of Pop'n is the number of Council staff as a percentage of the population of the Council area.

Sq km per staff is the number of square kilometres in the Council area for each Council staff member

Source: Population and Housing Fact Sheets (Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR) – Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU))

Sources for the Population and Housing Fact Sheet:

ABS Cat Nos 3201.3, 3218.0, 3235.3. ABS unpublished births and deaths data. ABS unpublished dwelling approvals data.

ABS Census of Population and Housing 1991, 1996 and 2001. QDLGP Queensland's Future Population 2003 Edition.

Queensland Government Population Projections 2003. Copyright © 2004 PIFU – QDLGPSR, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Source (03 Population): Queensland local government comparative information 2003/04 (DLGPSR 2005) using population figures at 30 June 2003. Area, population and growth figures are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication – Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand 3218.0, 2002-03.

Source (02 Population, 01 Population and 96 Population): APPENDIX A: Population growth – highlights and trends Queensland 2005 (PIFU – DLGPSR May 2005)

4. Results

4.1 Council by Council

Results have been arranged by Council and appear in the Appendix. An index to the Councils is provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Index to Councils' Results

Council	Appendix	Council	Appendix
Belyando Shire	A	Jericho Shire	F
Bowen Shire	B	Mirani Shire	G
Burdekin Shire	C	Nebo Shire	H
Charters Towers City	D	Thuringowa City	I
Dalrymple Shire	E	Townsville City	J

Results have been combined where appropriate and summarised below.

4.2 Communications

Each Council has its own method of operation and reporting. The results of the review of the current communications processes have been documented and appear in the Appendix of the Communication Strategy for the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM). Some educational and awareness raising products and communication avenues are listed in section 4.4.

4.3 NRM Activities

The main plans and strategies developed by local government and some activities that local government is involved in that are NRM related are summarised in Table 4-2.

In addition to the general activities of various Councils three significant initiatives with substantial natural resource management components are also being implemented by Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils in partnership with other organisations. These initiatives are:

- **Creek to Coral** - about sustainable use and management of marine and freshwater systems. Also aims to identify and manage factors impacting directly and indirectly on the watercourses and affecting biodiversity within these watercourses.
- **Community Environment Fund** - a three-year project funded by a \$500,000 community grant from Powerlink Queensland and \$500,000 from project partners the Townsville City Council and Thuringowa City Council. The Fund aims to form partnerships and undertake projects that enhance the environmental properties of the Townsville and Thuringowa region, and to minimise the visual impact on the community of the electricity infrastructure owned, operated and maintained by Powerlink Queensland.
- **The Centre for Excellence in Tropical Design** (Sustainability and Innovation) – the Centre is a concept rather than a place. The concept for a Centre has been initiated by a small group of people and organisations; underpinned by a desire to stimulate a more collaborative partnership between local governments, state government, business and the community.

The ultimate vision is to be able, in the next twenty years, to export practical models for tropical cities and sustainable patterns of living to a global community.

Founding partners of the Centre are; Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils, Department of Public Works and James Cook University.

Table 4-2 NRM Related Plans and Activities

	Belyando	Bowen	Burdekin	Charters Towers	Dairymlpe	Jericho	Mirani	Nebo	Thuringowa	Townsville
Corporate Plans	R	4	R	3	R	R	4	4	5	1
Development – Planning Schemes	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	O	O
Pest Management Plan	A	A	D	A	D	D	D	D	A	A
Stock Routes Management Plan	D				D	A				
Property PMPs incentive / requirement / support		Y			Y				Y	
Provide incentives / equipment for pest management								Y	Y	
Local Laws	Y									Y
Water cycle management	Y									
Waste Water Management	I	I		I	na	na	I	I		I
Water quality monitoring	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	Y
Urban Storm Water Quality Plan							D		Y	Y
Water use efficiency	Y									
Waste Management	C	P	C	P			P		C	C
Roads	E	G					G	E	E	E
Tourism Strategy / Plan	Y	Y							Y	Y
Economic Development Strategy / Plan	D	Y							Y	Y
Communication Strategy	Y									
Sustainability programs		Y	Y						Y	Y
River Improvement Trust		Y	Y							
Coastal Management programs / involvement		Y	Y						Y	Y
Open Space Plan									Y	Y
Support community NRM initiatives		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Land for Wildlife		Y							Y	Y
Environmental / natural area management		Y					Y		Y	Y
Involvement in promotions e.g. Weedbusters week			Y	Y					Y	Y
Environmental levy			Y							
[Integrated] Environmental Management System			Y	Y	Y	Y				Y
Cultural Heritage Plan					Y					

Notes: In general a **Y** indicates that the Council has an existing plan / program / activity and a **D** means they have a plan /activity under development.

Corporate Plans - **R** is the Plan is being reviewed or due for review, or the number is years until the next review.

For 'Development – Planning Schemes' **O** means the IPA Planning Scheme is gazetted and operational.

For 'Pest Management Plan' and 'Stock Route Management Plan' **A** means the Plan has been adopted by Council and is being implemented or will be implemented following final sign-off by DNRM.

For 'Local Laws' a **Y** indicates Council has **Y** square indicates Council has a strategy or plan that encompasses water supply and wastewater management.

For 'Waste Water Management' **I** means that at least some proportion of wastewater is used to irrigate parks etc. na indicates Council does not operate waste water treatment plants.

For 'Water quality monitoring' **S** means quality testing is undertaken for water supply purposes only.

For 'Waste Management' **P** means the Council has partial recycling measures in place and **C** means they have comprehensive recycling programs in place including through collection from households (yellow lid bins).

For 'Roads' **E** means Environmental Management Plans are prepared for road projects and **G** means a set of generic guidelines are use instead of specific Environmental Management Plans. Otherwise IEMS applies.

4.4 Education and Awareness Products

The main types of educational and communication products and avenues are summarised in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 Education and Awareness Products and Pathways

	Belyando	Bowen	Burdekin	Charters Towers	Dalrymple	Jericho	Mirani	Nebo	Thuringowa	Townsville
Newsletter – Council produced	Y						Y	Y	Y	
Newsletter – community produced						Y				
Newspapers – local/regional		Y		Y					Y	Y
Website - general	Y	Y	Y	Y	D	D	D	D	Y	Y
Website – some NRM specific material			Y						Y	Y
Display materials produced by State agencies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Produce brochures, pamphlets etc			Y	Y				Y	Y	Y
GIS - mainly internal	Y			Y	Y			Y		
GIS – external programs also available		Y	Y						Y	Y
School visits / programs			Y						Y	Y
Weed deck			Y	Y	Y				Y	Y
Mail outs						Y		Y		Y
Events				Y				Y	Y	Y
Displays at events						Y			Y	Y
Displays at Council offices	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Involvement in networks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Videos									Y	
'Management' Plans and Strategies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Training course/s for external participants										Y
Manuals and guidelines										Y
Databases										Y
Total components	7	6	10	9	5	7	5	9	15	17

Notes: A **Y** indicates that the Council produces, has produced or is involved in the production, activity or service. In the 'Website – general' column **D** indicates that the Council has a Website which is under development and/or considered to be not fully functional at present.

Common products across Councils are:

- Display materials produced by State agencies;
- Displays at Council offices;
- Involvement in networks;
- 'Management' Plans and Strategies, and
- Website – general (not all functional).

4.5 Skills Inventory

Local governments in the Burdekin Dry Tropics have varying capacity to be involved in NRM based on the number of staff directly involved in NRM related activities and the demands on the staff in the large rural shires with few staff involved in NRM type activities. Network Councils staff involved in NRM activities, either substantially or to an influential degree, are listed in Table 4-4. More details are provided for individual Councils in Appendix A to J.

Table 4-4 Skills Inventory Summary

	Belyando	Bowen	Burdekin	Charters Towers	Dalrymple	Jericho	Mirani	Nebo	Thuringowa	Townsville
Councillors	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y		
Director Community Services									Y	
Environmental Services Manager/Director	Y								Y	Y
Manager Environmental Management Services										Y
Director Development and Environmental Services			Y							
Health and Environmental Services Manager/Director		Y								
Coordinator Environmental Management									Y	
Manager Health / Environmental Health Coordinator			Y						Y	Y
Director Rural and Administrative Services					Y					
IEM and Sustainability Coordinator										Y
Creek to Coral Coordinator										Y
Environmental Officers									3	6
Environmental Health Officer/s	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	3	7
Pest Management Officer/s	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	3
Natural Area Operations Supervisor										Y
Natural Area Team										8
Native Nursery Officer										Y
Technical Services Manager				Y				Y		
Technical Officer								Y		
Drainage Engineer									Y	
Manager Water and Sewerage		Y	Y							
Environmental Engineer										3
Manager Development and Planning			Y				Y			
GIS Unit			Y						Y	Y
Director of Engineering/Works	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y			
Parks Staff	7	10	30	28	5	9	8	7	53	147

Notes: The Y denotes the Council has a person in that position that is involved to some degree in NRM activities. A number indicates the number of people in the position if there is more than one.

Pest Management Officer includes Stock Routes Officer, Lands Protection Officer, Local Laws Officer.

IEM and Sustainability Coordinator is Integrated Environmental Management and Sustainability Coordinator

Appendix A

Belyando Shire Council

Appendix A Belyando Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	The new Corporate Plan is under development and the draft is nearly finished. NRM does not appear separately as a major issue in the draft.
Development	The draft Planning Scheme has been for its first round check of State Interests. Amendments then need to be made and the draft resubmitted to DLGP. It will then be publicly advertised (3 months) and submissions taken into consideration before final adoption and gazettal. The Planning Scheme is expected to be in place by the end of 2005. The Planning Scheme is being prepared by a consultant.
Pest Management	The Pest Management Plan (PMP) has been adopted by Council. Potential application of the PMP to the entire catchment. A regional approach to pest management is supported. Stock Routes Management Plan is in draft form at present. Local Law supplements the PMP to include deer, which are a localised problem.
Water cycle management	Total Management Plan covers water supply and wastewater management. At present water is delivered to Moranbah via pipelines controlled by BMA. Clermont, which is outside the Burdekin Catchment, receives its water supply from the Theresa Creek Dam.
Waste Water Management	Treated wastewater is used for irrigation purposes around Moranbah. Clermont and Moranbah have wastewater treatment plants.
Water quality	Only applies to piped town water supply. No environmental water quality testing is carried out as there is generally no need for such activity.
Water use efficiency	Trials on more efficient use of wastewater (sub surface irrigation) including cost benefit. Investigation of drought resistant grasses and plants i.e. species that use less water. Looking at developing Best Management Practice guidelines for water use.
Waste Management	Both 'tips', Clermont and Moranbah, have a refuse management plan, which are currently under review and being updated. Recycling is carried out through the bin collection system and also through separation at the tip. A Waste Management Strategy for the Shire is still to be developed with the current waste management arrangements restricted to the townships i.e. Clermont & Moranbah.
Transport	Environmental Management Plans are included in project management plans for roads and are part of Main Roads requirements. The road strategy for the Shire identifies the various levels of roads and maintenance priorities. A new decision support system will be used shortly to prioritise road works and capital costs.
Tourism	Clermont and Environs Tourism Strategic Plan exists and deals mainly with historic sites rather than environmental tourism. More associated with Clermont (Fitzroy Basin).
Economic Development	Draft Economic development Strategy has been developed and as yet has not been adopted by Council. Some rural/agricultural matters with little in the way of NRM or environmental content.
Communications	Council has a Communication Strategy and uses a range of communication methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases; • Letter drops for major issues; • Town cryer - vehicle with speakers; • Use of local radio 96.9 HOT FM; • Displays – e.g. stall at show; • Website.

Notes: BMA is BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

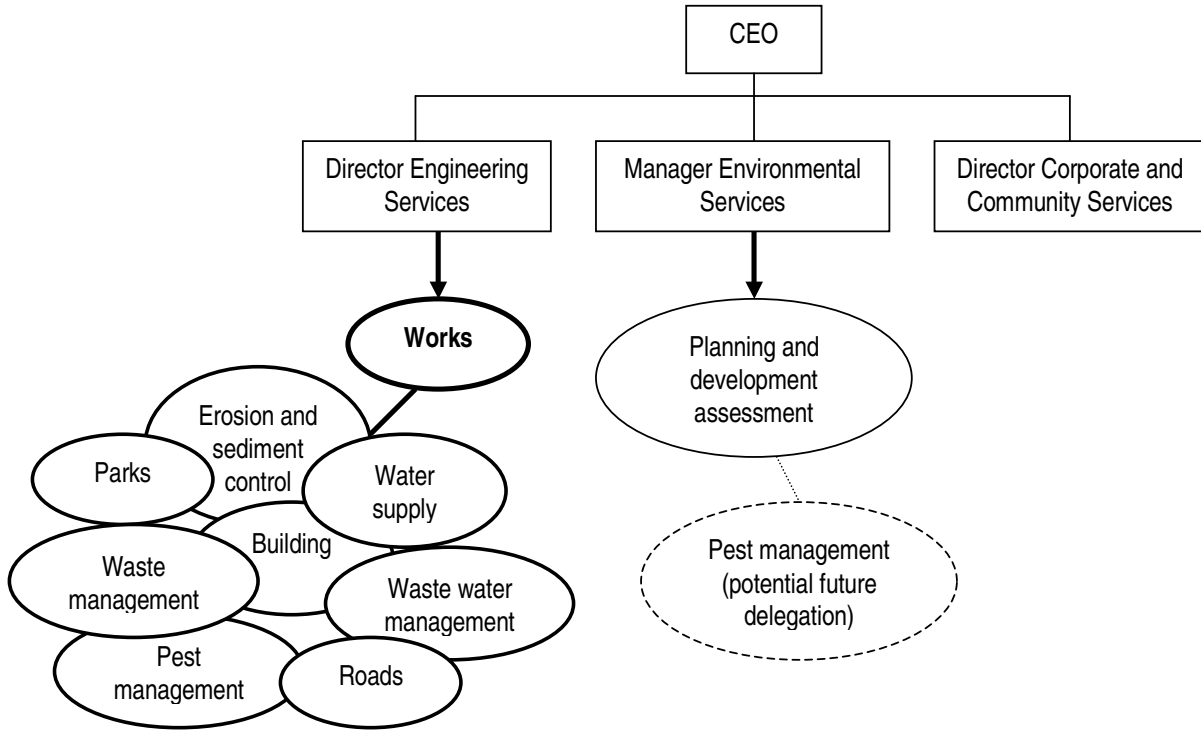
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Across Council	Newsletter Belyando Bulletin	Available at Council office and on the Website
Across Council	Website	
Various	Materials produced by State and Commonwealth agencies and other organisations	Available from Council office
Water use efficiency	Draft water usage brochures	Moranbah
Waste management	Information on recycling and use of refuse tip	Moranbah
Pest management	Animal control literature – wild dogs	Moranbah interface with rural residential and near town properties
Across Council	GIS mapping layers and products	Hope to have access via the Website. Still some way off as resources to do the necessary work are not available yet.

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person (Position)	Role/Qualifications/Comments	Time with Council	Time in LG
John Torpy (CEO)	Overall management, planning and policy. Bachelor of Commerce, MBA	5 yrs	19 yrs
Peter Freeleagus (Mayor)	Policy direction, public interaction, negotiation, consultation and committees, water supply		
Margaret Finger (Councillor)	NRM Committees such as FBA and BRIG Stakeholders Groups		
Tony Goldsworthy (Manager Environmental Services)	General environmental matters including planning and development assessment activities	2 yrs	
David Orr (Director of Engineering)	In charge of all works including main areas of environmental interaction (see diagram below) such as waste management and pest management.		
Charlie Stranks (Stock Routes Officer)	Responsible for pest management and management of stock routes across the shire		

Notes: Approximately 140 staff. Structure needs to be rationalised.

Council framework and activities



Appendix B

Bowen Shire

Appendix B Bowen Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	Corporate Plan – adopted May 2005 (4 year cycle). Some environmental references e.g. pest management. Available on the WWWeb.
Development	IPA Planning Scheme – in Public Advertising stage, which closes early September. Likely to be in place by the end of 2005.
Sustainability	CCP registered (Jon Gibbons)
Pest Management	Pest Management Plan adopted. Also property Pest Management Plans encouraged and required for subdivisions in rural areas and to receive herbicide subsidies
Water supply	From Peter Faust Dam on the Proserpine River pumped 60kms to Bowen and chlorinated. Also an allocation from the Don River aquifer. No WTP at Bowen and still considering options depending on future supply source i.e. Peter Faust Dam or Burdekin Dam. Collinsville from Collinsville Weir released from Eungella Dam Broken and Bowen Rivers. WTP at Collinsville. Mt Coolon supply from Police Camp Creek.
Water quality	For water supply purposes
Waste Water Management	Bowen – ocean outfall. Working towards elimination of outfall and recycle all waste water (NWI application submitted). Some issues with Mg at times. Collinsville – some recycling to Council parks <50%. Looking at full recycling option, which would require farmland to irrigate and wet weather storage dam.
River management & flood mitigation	Don RIT – Protection works from Bowen to the mouth.
Coastal Management	Restoration (erosion) at the Pocket, Queens Bay. Molongle Creek work with the community and Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS)
Open space	No formal plan – management of Reserves. Looking at reviewing reserves and USL in the Shire with DNRM.
Various community based projects.	Bating in specific areas and other pest management projects. Bowen Collinsville Water Enterprise – to get water from the Burdekin. Queens Beach Action Group – managing the esplanade from the beach front near the Motel to the mouth of the Don. Rose Bay action group also look after the esplanade. Groups supported with equipment and installation of watering points etc. Support schools with adopt a beach – clean ups. Pest management committee – graziers, Councillors, DNRM and Land Protection Officer.
Waste Management	Community recycling – at landfill and bins in parks. Split bin system discontinued as not economical.
Biodiversity	Environmental area/habitat between Rose bay and Horseshoe Bay (Land for Wildlife area). Issues with fire management and Ergon vegetation management. Also has historic sites i.e. radar bunkers. Involved in Land for Wildlife (WRICMA and MWNRM). Coastal management and pest management activities. Some Nature Refuges in the Shire. Abbott Point – manmade wetland.
Health	Mosquito and biting midge control. Potential water quality issues at Mt Coolon such as high fluoride levels.
Transport	No Environmental Management Plans as only maintenance works and reconstruction. Main Roads do main works using their own systems.

Economic Development	Economic Development Strategy needs to be reviewed. Includes tourism based on environmental features.
Tourism	Mostly based on environmental features.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

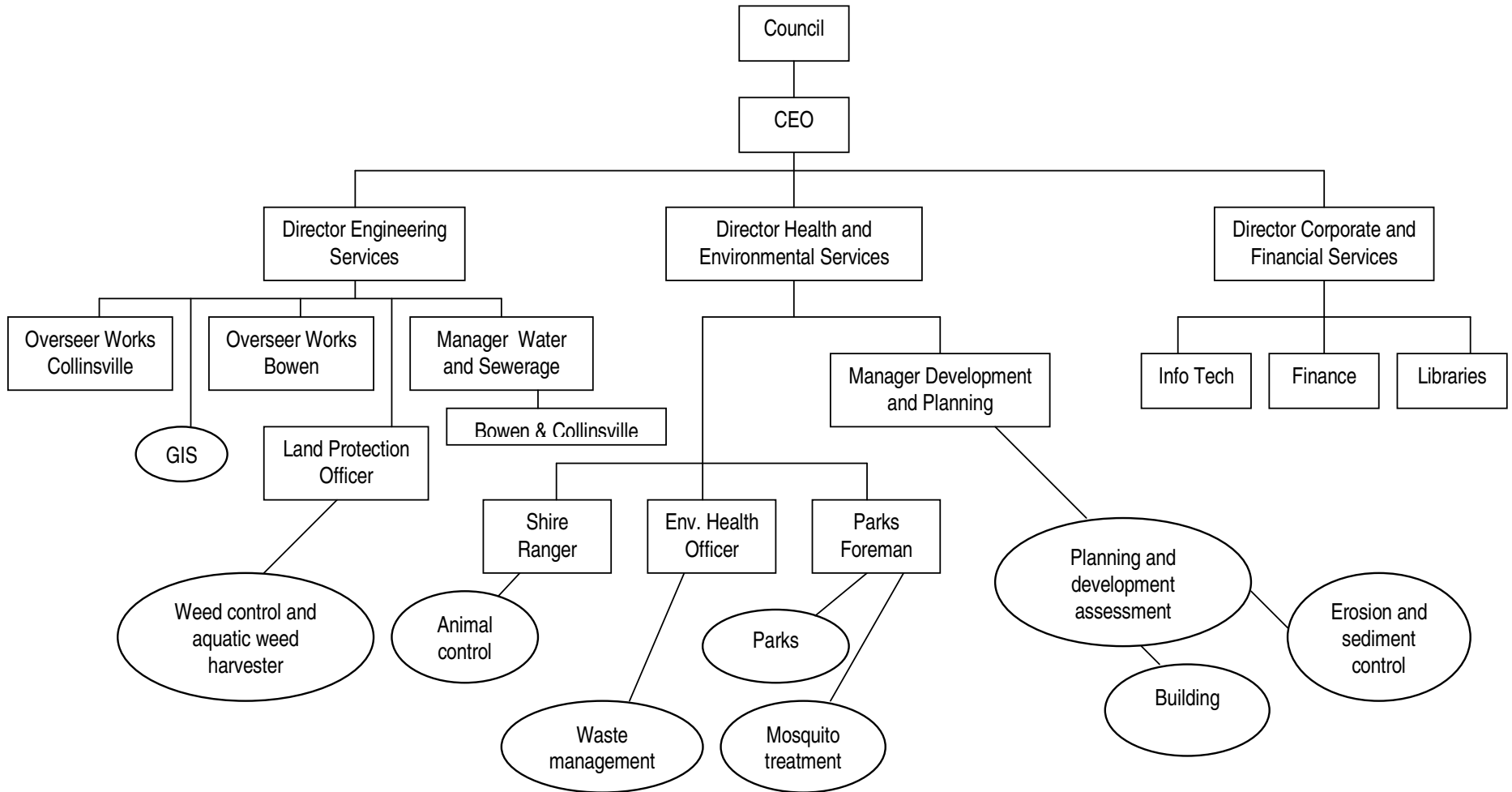
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Across Council	Media releases – Bowen Independent newspaper includes Rural Liftout	Wed and Fri
Across Council	Website	Online
Various	Materials produced by State and Commonwealth agencies and other organisations	Available from Council office

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
John Finlay	(CEO) Administration, communications, project management, funding applications. DRIT Committee. BSC LP Committee		
Graham Hawes	(Director Engineering Services) DRIT Committee. BSC LP Committee		
Gary Martin	(Manager Water and Sewerage) BSIG BDTB Director.		
G Dalton	(Land Protection Officer) Pest management. BSCLP Committee		
Jon Gibbons	(Director Health and Environmental Services) Environmental health matters, animal control and parks and gardens. General environmental matters. LAWMAC		
	(EHO)		
Eric Rose	(Parks Foreman)		
Parks staff	Ten		
David Nebauer	Economic Development Officer		
Craig Turner	Tourism Officer		
Cr Greg Smith	BBIFMAC representative. DRIT Committee		
Cr Peter Ramage	BSIG representative, grazier. BSCLP Committee		
Cr Geoff Buckley	Grazier (Collinsville) BSIG		
Cr S DeLuca	DRIT Committee		
Cr M Deckert	BSC LP Committee		
Cr Michael Brunner	LAWMAC		
Cr Kevin Perrett	LAWMAC		

Notes: Approximately 120 staff. DRIT is Don River Improvement Trust. BSC LP Committee is Bowen Shire Council Land Protection Committee. LAWMAC is Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee.

Council framework and activities



Appendix C

Burdekin Shire

Appendix C Burdekin Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	Starting the review process for the Corporate Plan (currently 5 year cycle). Little in the way of NRM in the current plan. May need legislative backing to have NRM issues included. Sustainability is not on the agenda as yet due to a general lack of understanding about what sustainability is about i.e. integration with all activities. The EPA and LG legislation and roles review may result in outcomes whereby there is greater integration of activities between EPA and LG with potential for subsequent incorporation in Corporate and Operational Plans, and potentially the IPA planning scheme.
Development	Draft IPA Planning Scheme has been released for public comment. Comments to be incorporated and sent back to DLGP (July / August). The planning scheme is fairly basic and will be added to as and when resources are available.
Sustainability	Registered with Cities for Climate Protection and at level 1 at present.
Pest Management	Draft Pest Management Plan in public consultation stage. After consideration of comments it will be sent for state interests check and any amendments. Expected to be finalised around September. Locally Chital Deer are a nuisance in sugar cane eating new shoots. They seek refuge on neighbouring grazing properties and it is difficult to arrange control efforts. Involved in Weedbuster Week and other promotions. The aquatic weed harvester is used for community purposes and is also hired out on a commercial cost recovery basis. Greater input will be required for continued operations as the machine becomes older and maintenance costs rise. Water Boards generally don't accept any 'environmental' responsibility for weed management in and around waterways.
Water supply	Town water supplied by bores at present. Ongoing monitoring for P and N levels, which are both rising along with salinity.
Water quality (see also water supply)	Testing of public water supply only. All other WQ testing done through industry and agencies. Waterwatch via Landcare. State of Environment Report required, to include water quality, but don't have resources to implement SOE monitoring and reporting. Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plans not yet prepared.
Waste Water Management	Two main STPs at Home Hill and Ayr with other areas served by septic systems. Proposals for installation of small community schemes e.g. Groper Creek and Alva, as current systems are not compliant with EPA requirements or are inadequate for future purposes. Looking at a wetland polishing system for Ayr to increase treatment to tertiary level. Home Hill discharges into creek/wetland area.
Flood mitigation	Flood studies have been carried out for Giru, Ayr, Brandon and Home Hill. Storm surge study also completed – mapping on seaward side of the highway.
River management	Burdekin Rivers Improvement Trust has a Strategic Management Plan for the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers and conducts other studies as necessary.
Coastal Management	Maintain Reserves and carry out beach replenishment works e.g. Alva. Significant issues exist in coastal areas and a strategic management plan is required along with a program of works to address priority issue areas. Wunjunga foreshore (~100 hectares) has been passed to Council from DNRM and EPA as part of lease condition rearrangements.
Open space	No specific open space plan exists. There is a listing of parks, gardens and reserves. Mostly formal parks and small reserves – no specific natural area reserves with the possible exception of coastal areas/esplanades.

Various community based projects.	Environment levy collected. There are criteria for how funds can be used and community can apply for funds. Aquatic weed control has been a major activity funded through the levy.
Waste Management	Involved in the delivery of the Regional Waste Management Plan (HESROC 2000) and the Burdekin component. Burdekin component has a rolling review each year with major review due in the next two years due to the age of plant and the need for renewal or greater participation in regional arrangements e.g. install a compactor and truck waste to the Townsville 'regional' facility. Bin recycling occurs in urban areas and facilities are available at transfer stations (Claire, Giru, Home Hill and Ayr) and landfill (Kirkney Road). Drum Muster area (very efficient). Green waste repository needs to be reviewed as product sits around after processing. Significant number of old landfills in the shire to be reviewed (LRAP).
Health	Linkages to aquatic weeds and mosquito breeding areas.
Transport	The Environmental Management System (EMS) is based on Main Roads standards and principally deals with activities and areas associated with road works. Environmental Management Plans are prepared for projects and are relative to the size of job.
Tourism and Economic Development	A study has been done to establish an economic development and tourism component of Council.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

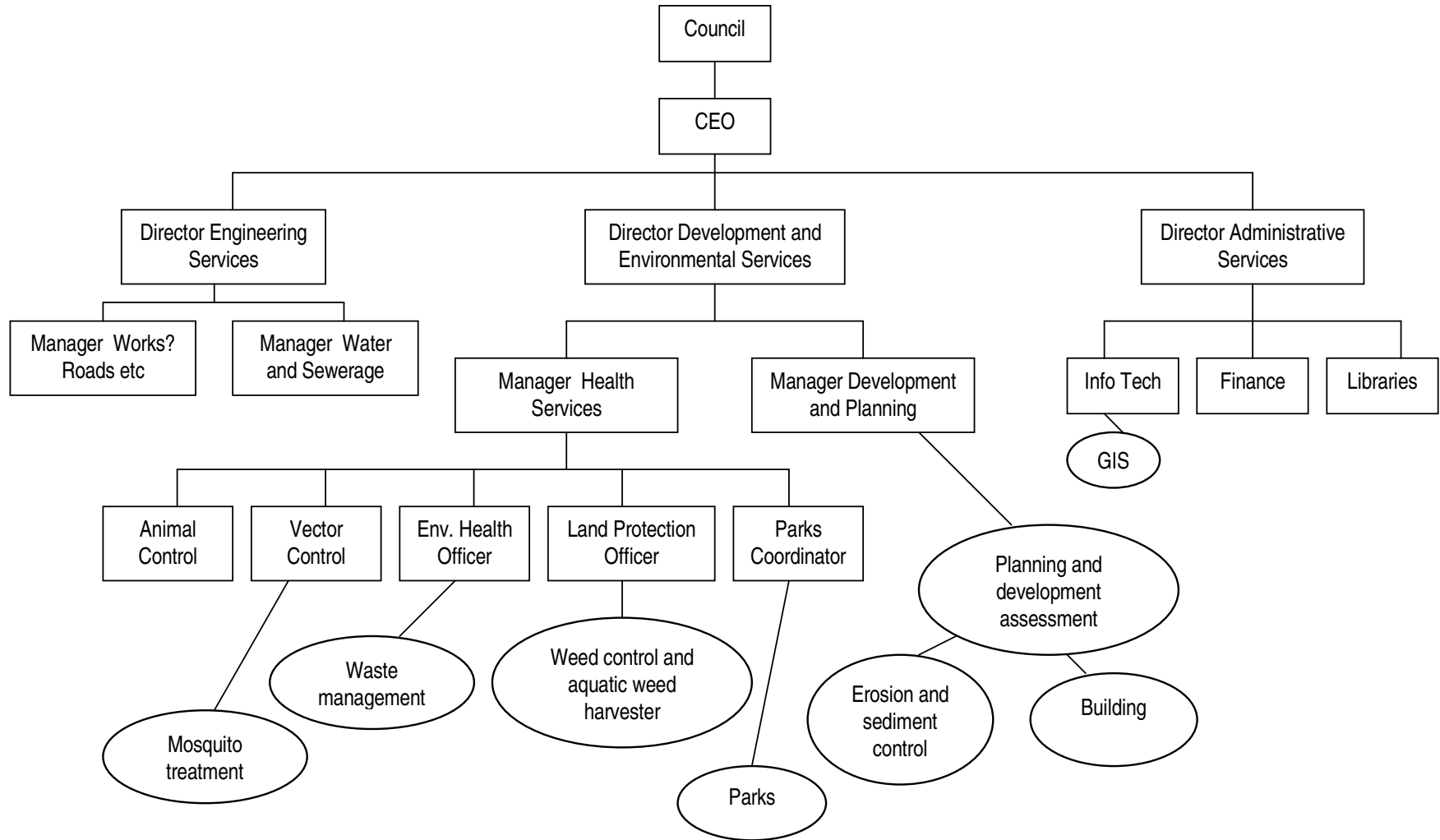
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Across Council	Concept of the CEO - Newsletter	
Across Council	Website – some NRM material posted	Online
Various	Materials produced by State and Commonwealth agencies and other organisations	Available from Council office
Pest Management	Mostly for aquatic weeds – Interactive video touch screen for Horseshoe and Pink Lily Lagoons, brochures and posters etc.	Available from Council office
Waste management	Brochures and school visits	
Mapping	GIS mapping layers and products from DNRM etc. Links with property management but no service offered.	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Mark Allpress	(Director Development and Environmental Services)	2.5 years	31 years
Bronwyn Williams	(Manager Health) EHO		
Christy Beard	(EHO)		
Merv Pyott	(Lands Protection Officer)		
Shane Great	(Manager Development and Planning)		
Trevor Williams	(Director Engineering Services)		
John Power	(Manager Water and Sewerage)		
	(Parks Coordinator) Reports to Bronwyn		
Cr Treen List	Director BDTB, HESROC representative		
Cr Rob Marriott	BBIFMAC representative		

Notes: Approximately 220 staff. 38 under Director Development and Environmental Services

Council framework and activities



Appendix D

Charters Towers City

Appendix D Charters Towers City

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	Corporate Plan
Development	Planning Scheme - anticipated completion date January 2006
Pest Management	Draft Pest Management Plan submitted to DNRM for sign off May 2005. Involved in HESROC pest management working group. Issues with flying foxes around town.
Water quality	Water supply routine monitoring. No Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan developed. Water bore monitoring at landfill.
Waste Management	Landfill, which is also utilised by Dalrymple Shire in the vicinity of town.
Water supply	From the Burdekin River/weir. In dry periods a soak is dug in the bed of the river and the near surface aquifer tapped into. Approximately 28ML per day pumping capacity from the river. Use 16-18ML a day for town purposes.
Waste Water Management	Sewerage treatment plant outside town recycles some treated wastewater for irrigation on nearby properties (~35% recycled per annum). Farm forestry trial in conjunction with reuse of aquaculture wastewater.
Sustainability	Look at reducing water treatment plant costs by recycling more wastewater and reduction of energy/ greenhouse emissions. Thinking about investigating methane extraction at the STP.
Various community based projects	Community tree planting days and tree giveaways, through parks services
Environmental Management	Integrated Environmental Management System (IEMS) was adopted by Council in 1996. The IEMS needs to be reviewed and updated. Covers (Main Council activities and sites): EMPs for STP, WTP, landfill, workshop, fuel storage, dog pound, waste transport, swimming pool, and quarries and borrow pits. Mentions; stormwater, noise, discharge to air and waste minimisation.
Health	Mostly mosquito control.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

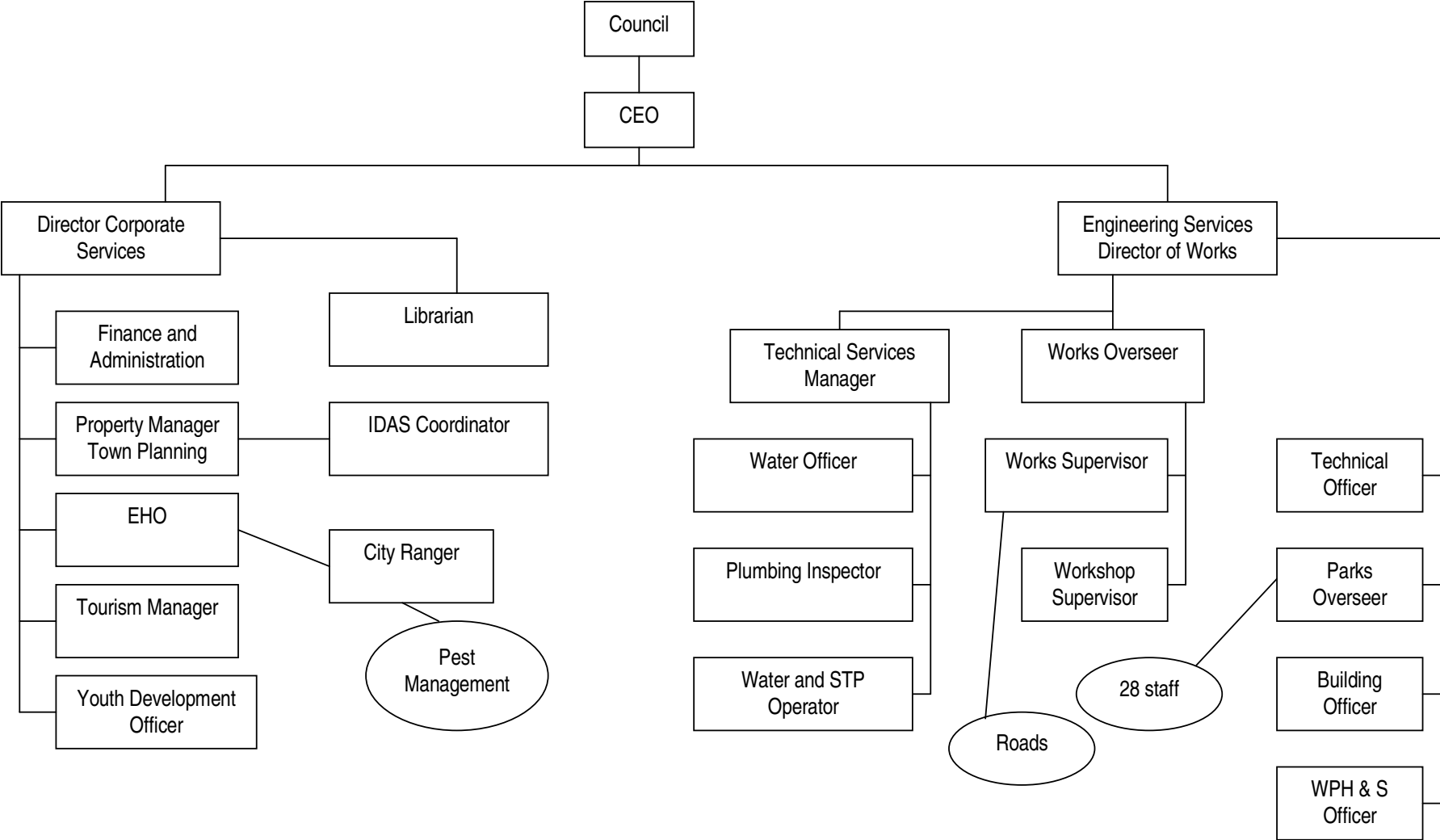
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Across Council	Website	
Across Council	Newspaper articles resulting from press attendance at Council meetings based on reports and agenda items.	Local paper
Various	Materials produced by State and Commonwealth agencies and other organisations	Available from Council office and DNR Pest info distributed
Pest Management	HESROC Weed decks	
Waste management	Tidy towns booklet	
Mapping		
Water management	Water Expo: Produced through Charters Towers Youth Council	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Brian Beveridge	(Mayor). Farming and grazing. Property management. Sits on a number of committees including: NQROC; Regional Economic Development and Director of BDTB.	15 years	
John Wehlow	CEO	25 years	
Tamara Power	Director Corporate Services	10 years	
Mick Langburne	(EHO) Also responsible for general environmental matters	4 years	
William Hussey	(City Ranger) Pest management - weeds and animals and pound keeper.	7 years	
	(Trainee) Spraying		
Bob Read	Project Manager – Responsible for planning matters	30 years	
Allan Rayment	Director of Works	10 years	
Works personnel	Parks and gardens crew (28) parks and gardens as well as roadside pests and declared plants. 10 people with ACD licence.		
Cameron Scott	Technical Services Manager	2 years	
Mike Nemeč	Parks overseer	3 years	
Greencorps	Utilise when available / when possible.		

Notes: -60 staff

Council framework and activities



Appendix E

Dalrymple Shire

Appendix E Dalrymple Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Administration and governance	Corporate Plan is probably getting close to review as it was adopted around 3 years ago. Mentions pest management obligations but little else in the way of NRM.
Planning and Development	IPA Plan has gone to the DLGP for approval for Public advertising. The plan does not go into detail about the type of development in each area (Rural and Urban) and basically enables any form of development if it meets the legislative requirements and principles of sustainability. Few development issues are encountered in the shire due to lack of urban areas and large number of leasehold properties.
Pest Management	Pest Management Plan – Approved by Council 14 6 05 and to be sent to the Minister DNRM for endorsement. Stock Route Management Plan drafted. Stock routes are generally incorporated in neighbouring properties and are not used by public. The plan is mainly about monitoring and quality control including management of watering facilities.
Environmental Management	The Environmental Management Plan covers all aspects of works and operational procedures carried out by Council including roads, wastewater management, water, workshops etc
Community	Progress Associations etc are given annual grants by Council to carry out work which may involve NRM activities.
Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage Plan covers responsibilities and procedures as required under legislation for works and development.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

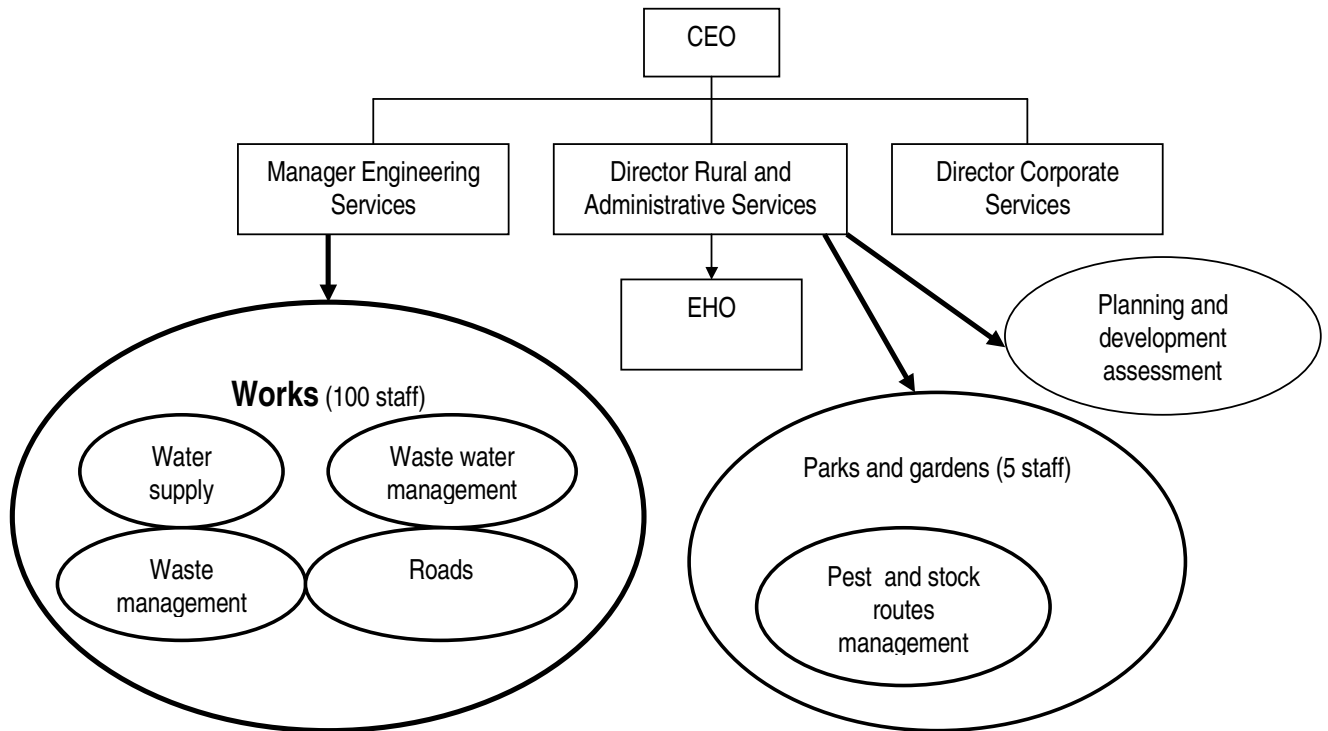
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Pest Management	DNRM products available from the office.	
Pest Management	Weed deck via HESROC	
Pest Management	Will be doing work as part of the Pest Management Plan and Stock Route Management Plan e.g. schools and production of pest facts etc.	
General	Website – not working at present. Needs repairs / additional work.	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Raymon Jayo	(Director Rural and Administrative Services) Commenced law and then moved to Council and worked up through the ranks. All planning and environmental matters.	10	10
Kent Dungable	(EHO - recent graduate – retrained) B.Science (EH).	1	
Neville Lavey	(Director Engineering Services) ~100 outside staff mainly involved in roads (~7000km of roads to maintain).		
Five personnel	Parks and gardens staff look after all Councils assets / grounds and Stock Routes.		
Contractors	Employed by Raymon Jayo for any additional work required beyond the capacity of parks and gardens staff.		

Note: ~124 staff overall

Council framework and activities



Appendix F

Jericho Shire

Appendix F Jericho Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Administration and governance	Corporate Plan is due for review and will commence the process in July 2005. 5 year cycle and one of the review points will be the time frame i.e. change to 4 years to align with elections. General environmental references only and this needs to be looked at as part of the review. Not strong on the broad picture of environmental issues which are recognised but not sure how they fit into Council policy and operations. Plans are often done as a legislative requirement rather than a need. Council is more focused on practical works rather than on strategic documents such as Corporate Plans.
Planning and Development	The IPA Planning Scheme has been developed in conjunction with 14 western shires by Col Higginson (Town Planners) using a 'template' from 4 previously submitted and approved planning schemes for rural shires. Draft has been submitted for state interest check. No major development issues in the shire.
Pest Management	Stock Route Management Plan recently adopted by the committee and ready to go to the Minister for approval. Stock routes not used much for general stock movement. Get used annually to move stock to the annual camp draft, which is a large event.
Pest Management	For public release in July 2005 and then to DNRM for finalisation following consideration of submissions.
Pest Management	CHPMG have developed a regional PMP but it was rejected as individual plans had to be developed first according to 'new' pest management legislation. The regional plan will be developed by CHPMG.
Pest Management	Projects carried out with landholders to try and eradicate weeds in the upper catchment e.g. rubber vine. Landholder action group/s assisted by Council.
Environmental Management	Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) exists for road construction and works e.g. borrow pits. The IEMP needs to be updated and information on borrow pits i.e. location and material, completed. Specific Environmental Management Plans are produced for Main Roads jobs based on a general template. Occasional vegetation management issues associated with clearing for road works and maintenance.

Notes: CHPMG is the Central Highlands Pest Management Group

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

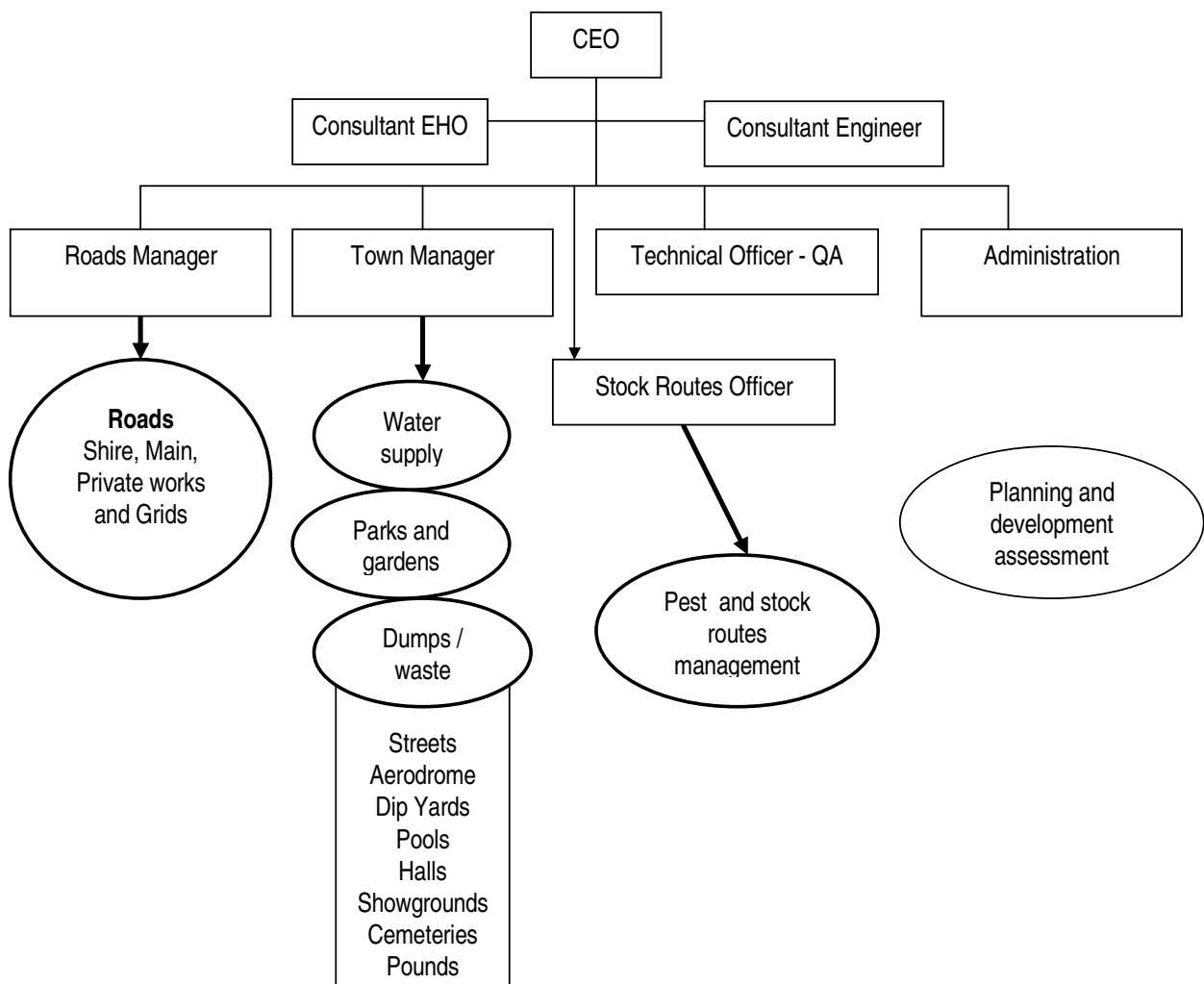
Project/Program	Description of Product
Pest Management	DNRM Pestfacts used and displayed at the shire office.
Pest Management	Stand at the local show. CHPMG does displays and regional promotion sometimes with assistance from Council.
General	Mail outs are the best option (separate to rates notices as they become the prime concern) and are used for Weeds – Waterwise – Council projects.
General	Shire Snippets – community produced monthly newsletter has Council input (2 pages)
General	Website exists but is dysfunctional. Using an 'old' LGAQ system which is difficult to update (issues with the software) and people trained are not able to operate it properly. Better back up required for smaller Councils.

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Des Howard	(CEO) Management and coordination. Funding applications and general environmental responsibilities.		
Dave Halls	(Stock Routes Officer) Mostly herbicide spraying and general weed control tasks		
Consultant	(EHO) Engage the EHO from Emerald Shire as it does not require a full time position.		
Consultant	Engineers (George Bourne – Barcaldine)		

Notes: ~50 staff including 8 administration and 28-30 works

Council framework and activities



Appendix G

Mirani Shire

Appendix G Mirani Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	The Corporate Plan has been reviewed and adopted by Council (May 2005) and the Operations Plan is expected to be before Council in June 2005. Plans will be available via the Website when it is developed. Four year timeframe.
Development	Planning Scheme is currently under development with the draft expected to be released for public comment in July 2005. Being developed by a consultant. Expected to be in place by the end of 2005. Development is increasing in townships and along the Pioneer River.
Pest Management	The Pest Management Plan is currently being reviewed and will be rewritten to align with current legislation and requirements. Three meetings have been held to develop objectives, framework and content required. Current plan is 5-6 years old. Application Shire wide with potential for regional cooperative arrangements.
Water quality (see also Waste Management and Waste Water Management)	USQMP in early development stages i.e. contemplating the need and the means to produce the plan. Applies principally to Mirani and Marian with potential application for future 'outlier' developments. Currently, for new developments, standards are borrowed from Mackay City Council.
Water supply	Water is supplied to both towns from bores (Pioneer River aquifer). There is considerable take from the aquifer for sugar cane production and this is impacting the quantity (Mirani) and quality (Marion) of available water. As such a recharge/storage scheme instigated by Council would not be effective and has not been investigated. Council has secured an allocation from the Pioneer River and investigations are underway to determine the most suitable extraction and treatment/storage options.
Waste Water Management	The current WWTP is located east of Mirani and serves both Mirani and Marion townships. Treated (secondary) effluent is used for irrigation purposes on nearby caneland. With potential population increases and subsequent increase in output of the WWTP options are being investigated to use the treated effluent on sporting fields e.g. bowls greens.
Waste Management	Mirani SC is a partner in the Regional Waste Management Strategy being coordinated by WHAMBROC and will eventually use the Hogan's Pocket facility being developed by Mackay City Council. Recent investigations have been carried out on current facilities including monitoring arrangements for water quality purposes.
Biodiversity and Vegetation Management	Involved in Land for Wildlife with in kind contribution of office space and information dissemination.
Biodiversity and Vegetation Management	Have been involved with revegetation initiatives primarily through the Pioneer Integrated Catchment Management Association and Central Coast Revegetation Initiative. Landholders in both the Pioneer and Broken Rivers catchments have been involved. Looking at the possibility of hosting a Greencorps team/project.
Community support	General and specific support provided to community groups for various small projects.
Transport	Road network construction and maintenance. No specific environmental management plan however standards similar to Main Roads are used for construction purposes.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

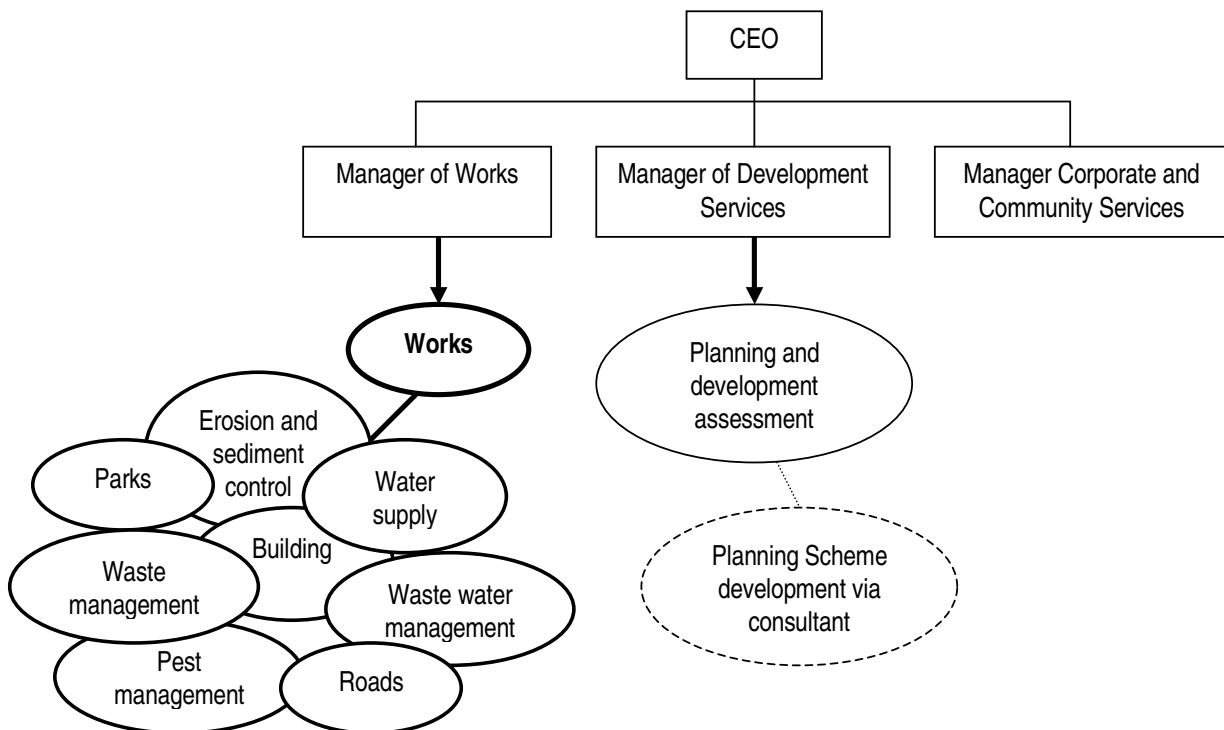
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Across Council	Quarterly Newsletter	Mail out to all ratepayers. Will be made available on the Website when it is developed.
Across Council	Website	Currently in development stage.
Various	Materials produced by State and Commonwealth agencies and other organisations	Displayed at Council office and library.

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Ray Geraghty	(CEO) Overall management including funding applications and communications.		
David Price	(Mayor) Policy direction, public interaction, negotiation, consultation and committees.		
Paul Tippett	(Councillor) Pest Management and NRM in general. Committees such as MWNRMG Stakeholders Group.		
Neil De Bruyn	(Manager Development Services) Planning and development assessment.		
Peter Bratt	(Manager of Works) Road construction and maintenance.		
Brendan Carter	(Works) Roads.		
Debbie Adams	(EHO) general EHO duties and environmental matters not covered elsewhere.		
Geoff Bailey	(Local Laws Officer) Local Laws and Pest Management.		

Note: ~60 staff overall

Council framework and activities



Appendix H

Nebo Shire

Appendix H Nebo Shire Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	The Corporate Plan has been reviewed
Development	Planning Scheme
Pest Management	Pest Management Plan (two thirds completed). Draft for Council comment in May/June and then for public consultation prior to finalisation. Survey work to be undertaken when plan is in place.
Pest Management	Proposed washdown facility for near Council depot near the Peak Downs Highway.
Pest Management	Spray program arranged via Reg Norman. Lend spray unit and provision of chemical (Taskforce 32 x 20 litres) at reduced cost through bulk buying.
Pest Management	Annual meetings at small communities with Mayor, CEO and Reg
Pest Management	Wild dog and feral pig baiting/control
MWNRM Plan	Involvement in developing the Pest Management component.
Environmental Management Plan	All activities relating to works with Main Roads and then extends to all other roads in the Shire. Based on Main Roads and EPA guidelines and requirements.
Water supply	Glenden water supply is via pipeline from Collinsville Weir, which is fed by Eungella Dam. Normal water quality testing is carried out.
Waste Water Management	The current WWTP services Glenden township (1000 to 1500 people) and effluent is used on sporting fields. All other areas have septic systems.
Various	Sport and Recreation Plan 2002

Notes: BMA is BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance. MWNRM Plan is the Mackay Whitsunday natural resource management plan.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

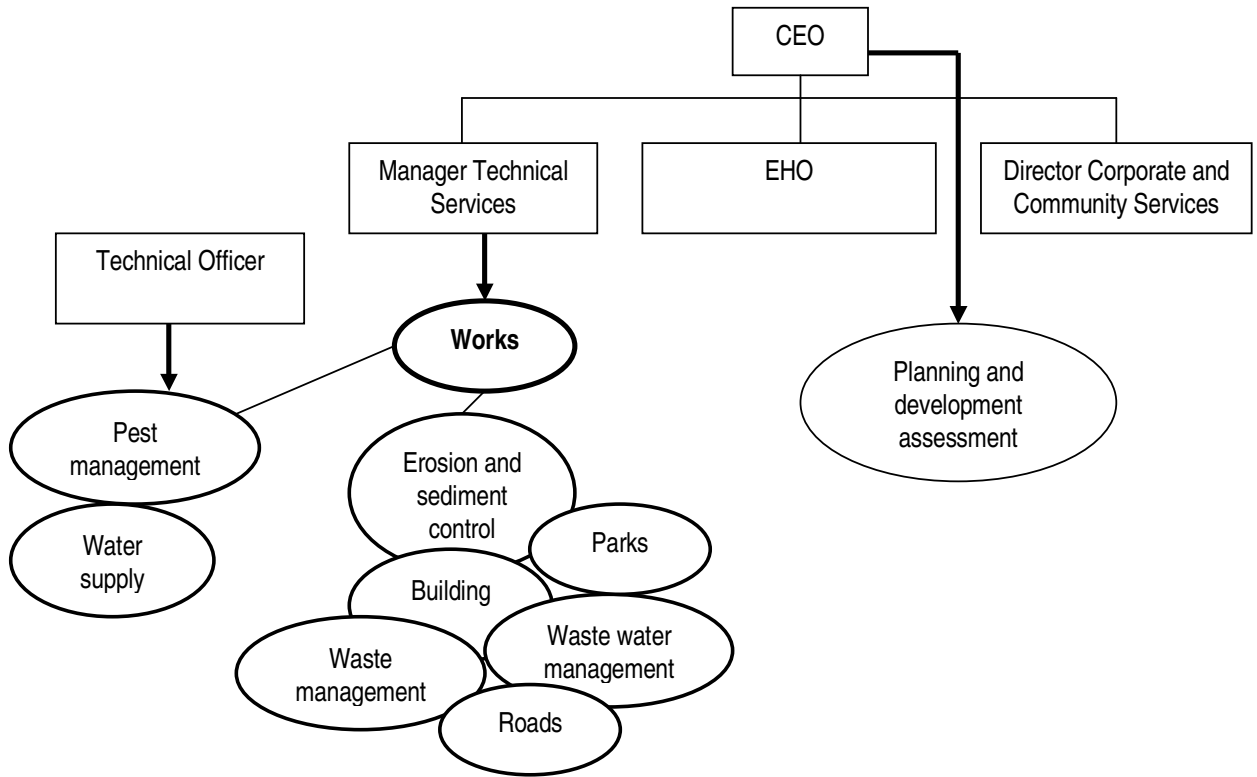
Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
All components	Website was developed in 2003 and is under review. Subscribe to LG online and website hosting is part of the subscription – includes 3 community portals (subsidised by Federal funds). Site should be ready by the end of July 2005.	Lots of links
Pest management	Some specific work done on Mother of Millions and Bellyache Bush using DNRM material	
All components	News	
All components	Why Does Council Do That – Information paper 2005	Mail out and to be archived on the web.
All components	News from the Boardroom Quarterly	Mail out
	Contribution to various NRM group products	
	PMP by Mayor - explaining process for property owners and management of reserves (Land Act) relates leases and conditions. Feb / March 05	Nebo Broadsound how PMPs work.
	Sharing with various other LGs and groups on regional and sub-regional basis.	
Pest management	Capricornia Pest Management Group website and coordinator (Trudy Baker) – based in Rockhampton. Resource sharing days targeting particular weed species.	
Pest management	Cassandra Chopping, Alan Royale, Broadsound and Reg input for weed management for MWNRM Group.	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Mark Crawley	(CEO) Policy, Budget, Legislation and Compliance, Rates and Revenue Environmental, Sport and Recreation Grad Cert Local Government Management	1 year	21 years
David Cullen	(Manager of Technical Services) Works, Water Supply, Sewerage, Parks and Gardens, Roads Bachelor Engineering, MBA	2 years	3 years
Reg Norman	(Technical Officer) Pest management, water and general environmental roles including representative on regional pest management working groups. Looks after IT issues including the Website. Qualifications include: Masters in Technology Management, Workplace Health and Safety Officer, Cert IV Training and Assessment	2.5 years	7.5 years
Shannon Gorman	EHO		
Regional Projects Coordinator (Vacant)	Application and project development and coordination		
Bob Oakes	(Mayor) Council representative on BSIG, FBA, Pest Management Committee, Nebo Broadsound Landcare Committee, Whitsunday Regional Road Group, WHaMBROC		
Cr Wendy Western	Chair Lake Elphinstone Alliance, LAWMAC, Mackay Regional Council for Social Development		
Cr Joy Deguara	Chair Nebo Broadsound Landcare Group, Pest Management Committee, Lake Elphinstone Alliance Committee, Mackay Highlands Coordinating Committee. Former DPI extension officer and now a consultant NRM related primary industry		
Cr Danny Commerford	Council representative Nebo Broadsound Landcare Committee		

Notes: 52 staff in total. 32 – Works, 3 – Technical services, 17 – Corporate Services.

Council framework and activities



Appendix I

Thuringowa City

Appendix I Thuringowa City Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	Corporate Plan
Development	Planning Scheme - approved and being implemented
Pest Management	Pest Management Plan - Draft 2005-2009 plan with DNRM Minister for approval. Property Based Pest Management Plans. Herbicide Subsidy Scheme. Subsidised equipment hire scheme Community Events & CB: Weed busters and Tilapia Fishing Competition.
Water quality (see also water supply)	Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan (USQMP). Creek To Coral partner. Gross Pollutant Traps in major drainage areas. Drain Stencilling program
Waste Water Management	Water Purification plants: Condon, Mt.Low, Deeragun, Toomulla. Some diverted to TCC plant at Mt. St John.
Waste Management	Regional waste management plan (HESROC 2000) Recycling Construction is well underway on a \$3.5million state-of-the-art waste transfer station, located next to the current Hervey's Range Road landfill site. Litter Management Strategy: School education component - EHO & Environmental Officer visit schools.
Sustainability	Cities for Climate Protection registered and Milestone 4 completed. Energy audit undertaken and currently implementing recommendations from the Audit. Fleet on E10. Working towards milestone 5 of CCP. Sustainability reporting alliance. Smogbusters involvement. Riverways Sustainability Initiatives including sustainable energy precinct educational tool and 8 lot sustainability housing showcase.
Coastal Management	Beach Management Plans: Balgal Beach, Bushland Beach, Saunders Beach, Toolakea Beach & Toomulla Beach. Currently implementing 2 of the plans (Balgal Beach and Toomulla Beach), with others soon to follow. Community and school Education component
Open space	Specific natural area reserves. Urban forest of native vegetation at Blue Water with interpretive trail. Water effluent reuse for street scaping.
Various community based projects	Community Environment Fund; Envirofund; National Landcare Program project - support for rural Landcare coordinators; Green Corps - ongoing - two teams (1 beach management and 1 revegetation); Conservation Volunteers Australia; Reef Guardian Council (school education & drain stencils); Environmental Micro Grants - 10 grants a year for \$500 to community groups and individuals. Attendance at community meetings including LMAC
Natural Area Management	Environmental Management Field Team. Land for Wild Life (5 sites soon to be registered). Conservation covenant for specific areas e.g. riparian zones. CJP Teams – Ross River
Flood mitigation	Kelso Flood Diversion Scheme.
Tourism and Economic Development	Green Product Development program in the pipeline.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
School and University Education	Guest lectures and talks at local schools and JCU on environmental management and coastal management	
Pest Management	Draft Pest Management Plan 2005 - 2009	Internet.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity video used for schools as well as broader public.	
Beach management Plans	Balgai Beach, Bushland Beach, Saunders Beach Toolakea Beach & Toomulla Beach.	Internet
Revegetation Strategy	Developed in 2003 to identify and prioritise natural areas in need of rehabilitation through revegetation.	
Biodiversity Strategy		
Thuringowan	Council magazine, often focusing on the environmental and sustainability initiatives of Council. Produced quarterly.	
Water Wise	Brochure on water use efficiency and education.	
Protecting & living with Biodiversity	Brochure for community education on biodiversity issues.	
Protecting Thuringowa's Beaches	Brochure for Community Coastal management education	
Don't waste Thuringowa	Information on Waste Management and recycling.	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Gavin Lyons	Director Community Services		
Gary Ewart	Manager Environmental Services		
Lyonelle Lane	Coordinator – Environmental Management	7 years	7 years
Shaun Warner	Environmental Officer – Land Protection	3 years	4 years
Rachel Allan	Environmental Officer	9 months	2 years
Meredith Anderson	Environmental Officer - Sustainability	6 months	6 months
Libby Guest	Project Manager Community Environment Fund	1 year	6 years
Alan Walker	Drainage Engineer		
Vacant	Coordinator - Environmental Health		
Vacant	Environmental Health Officer		
Tony Chandler	Environmental Health Officer	3 months	20 + years
Chris Lee	Environmental Health Officer		

Note: ~442 staff overall

Appendix J

Townsville City

Appendix J Townsville City Council

Council NRM related activities

Project/Program	Description
Policy and coordination	Corporate Plan and Operational Plan Vegetation local law.
Development	City Plan gazetted and being implemented. Partner in Centre for Excellence in Tropical Design. Host of the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Course (5 day). Acid Sulphate Soils Training in conjunction with State.
Pest Management	Pest Management Plan. Pest Management Working Group. Mosquito Control. Weed Busters.
Water quality (see also water supply)	Creek to Coral: Partnership with Thuringowa City Council & EPA. Support for local water watch activities: (Mundy, Sachs & Louisa Creeks) Gross Pollutant Traps. Water Quality Monitoring (citiworks + EMS): Lakes, Louisa Creek. Louisa Creek NHT Clean Seas Project.
Waste Water Management	Douglas, Mt.St John & Cleveland Bay Treatment Plants – about to be upgraded and treated water recycled. Magnetic Island Water Recycling: Bioreactor membrane filtration and irrigation recycling.
Waste Management	Waste Management Strategy. Kerbside Recycling program. Don't Waste Townsville Program. North Queensland LAWMAC Bus: features static and interactive displays that are designed to assist young people understand the importance of recycling. What A Load of Rubbish (WALOR): an interactive educational game for kids that is delivered to schools in Townsville by TCC. Developed by the Foster Foundation, to educate kids about waste management.
Sustainability	Sustainable Townsville Program: Strand Wind Turbine and interpretation. Green House Audit. Sustainable Engineering (EMS\Citiworks) Citiwater, in conjunction with Stanwell Corp and Ergon Energy has installed methane-burning generators at Mt. St John and Cleveland bay STPs. Toyota Prius (Hybrid Petrol \ Electric Car) Ergon clean power program. Greenhouse trees for Fleet. Cities for Climate Protection Milestone. CARbon Busters Day.
Coastal Management	Sand Renourishment Program

Biodiversity	<p>Greening Townsville Program: Extensive program involving several components, including community revegetation, school shade trees, and park greening. Resulting in at least 10 000 trees being planted each year and several thousand given away to the public.</p> <p>Land for Wild Life Fish Watch Advisory Committee Support for Tropical Fish Ecology Research Support for Indo Pacific Sea Turtle Conservation Group. Community Environment Fund. Nelly Bay Habitat Interpretive Trail. Magnetic Island Wildlife Reflectors.</p>
Community Education & support.	<p>Support to Local Landcare Groups for: revegetation coordinator, office rent and new letter publication. Support for Rural Landcare coordinators: Supply of vehicle, Auspice of funds, and assistance with project management. Support for Houghton Catchment Committee. Natural Assets Database: Produced and houses the NAD, an extensive database of natural flora, fauna and habitats available free to the public Other events: Clean up Australia Day, World environment week \ Ecofiesta, National Tree Day, National Water Week. Green Tree Ants: Schools based biodiversity education program.</p>
Transport	Participants in the Travel Smart Program
Tourism and Economic Development	Ecotourism strategy.

Educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities

Project/Program	Description of Product	Distribution
Biodiversity management	Brochure - Rowes Bay Wetland	
Biodiversity management	Brochure - Wildlife Reflectors	
Biodiversity management	Ross Creek Fish survey	
Biodiversity management	Case study Flora & Fauna Case study Habitat Priorities Case study Ross River Revegetation Case Study Serpentine (funded through NHT)	
Biodiversity management	Brochure - Land for Wildlife	
Catchment management	Brochure - Please Help our Waterways	
Catchment management	Brochure - Louisa Creek Watch	
Catchment management	Gustav creek management study	
Catchment management	Houghton Catchment Plan	
Environmentally Sensitive Tourism	Ecotourism strategy	
Erosion Control	Soil Erosion Fact Pack includes: Self assessment form; Sediment control; Erosion control; Drainage control; Building operations; Environmental law	
Greenhouse emission reduction	TCC green house Audits: TCC vehicles TCC Dalrymple Rd. depot, Land Fill, CO2 emissions, Recommendations	
Land management	Bushfire Hazard report 2000	
Solid Waste Management	Waste Management Strategy	
State of the Environment Reporting	Brochures & booklets as well as an extensive online component.	

Stormwater quality management	Atlas of Environmental Values	
Stormwater quality management	Brochure - Urban Stormwater Initiative	
Vegetation and biodiversity management	From Seeds to Success Revegetation Manual Garden Thugs Species for Revegetation in the Townsville \ Thuringowa Region (produced in conjunction with and in support of Landcare)	
Vegetation management	TCC revegetation Strategy	
Water quality management	Brochure - Measuring water quality and gross pollutants	
Water quality management	Brochure - Monitoring Heavy Metals	

Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels

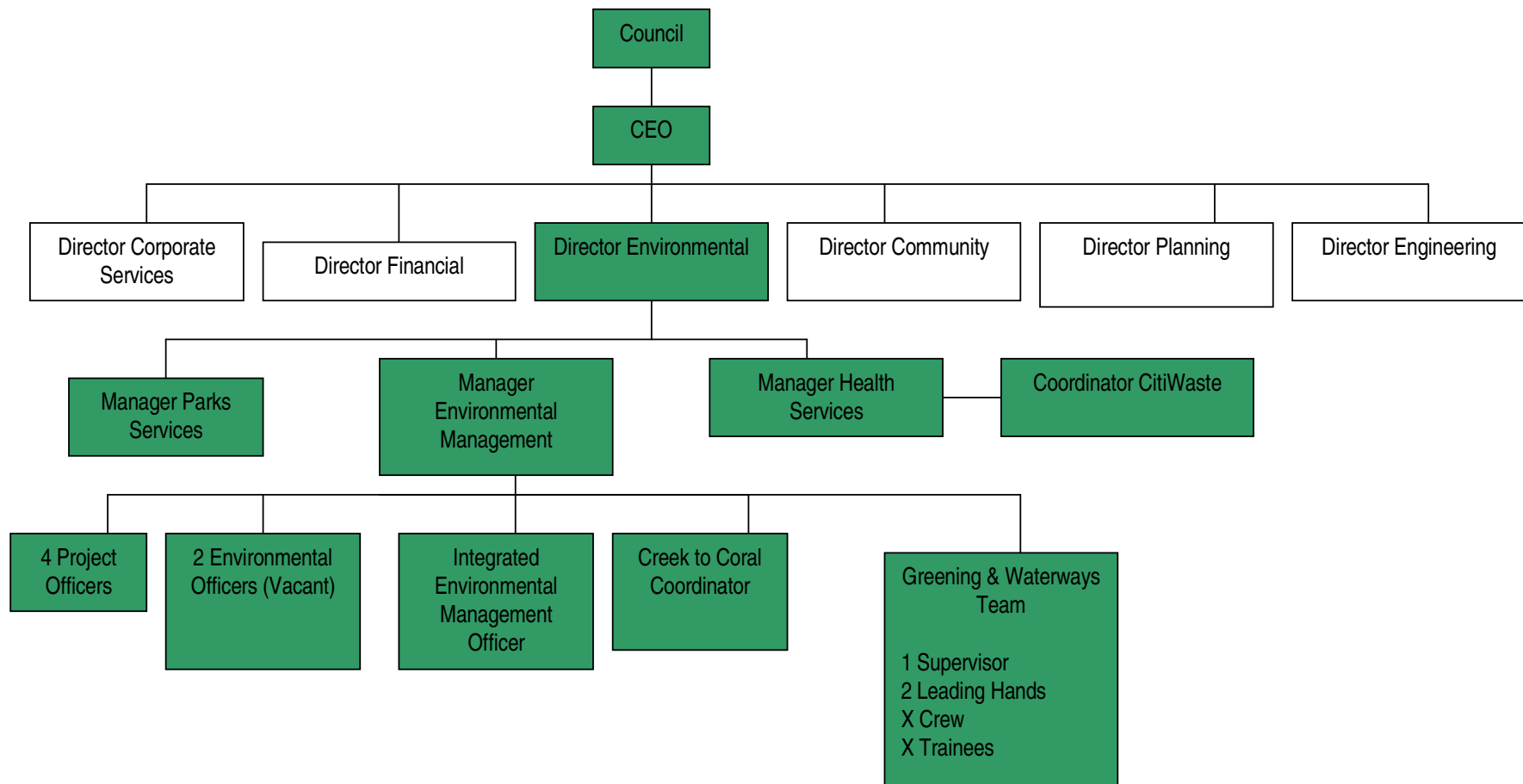
Person	(Position) Role	Time with Council	Time in LG
Peter Foxwell	(Director Environmental Services)	25 years	30 years
Grant Steen	(Manager Environmental Health) Secretary HESROC	20 years	20 years
Greg Bruce	(Manager Environmental Management Services - EMS) All environmental and sustainability matters including partnerships and integration within and across Council and with community. HESROC NRM advisor	10 years	10 years
Mark Davis	(Integrated Environmental Management and Sustainability Coordinator)	5 years	5 years
Sri Suryati	(Environment Officer - EMS) Biodiversity, conservation and events	3 years	3 years
Karen Bird	(Environment Officer - EMS) Catchment management, water quality and planning assessments	1 year	1 year
Shane Guest	(Natural Area Operations Supervisor) Oversees the 'Greening and Waterways' team responsible for management of 'natural areas' – 8 staff	5 years	5 years
Elizabeth Booth	(Project Officer - EMS) Interpretation, education and awareness	8 months	8 months
Katrina Cullen	(Project Officer - EMS) – Coordinator of the community component of Greening Townsville initiative	1 year	1 year
Donald Mackenzie	(Coordinator Creek to Coral) Joint initiative with Thuringowa City Council, EPA, GBRMPA and others to maintain healthy waterways	3 years	3 years
Libby Guest	Project Officer – EMS 1 day per week) Project management support	5 years	6 years
Lee Anderson	Maintains the local native nursery – propagation and storage of seedlings/plants for revegetation works		
Nicola Dross	(Project Officer – EMS part-time) Cities for Climate Protection.	6 months	6 months
Andrew Hannay	(Environment Officer - EMS) BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM) support and project management of NLP Landcare Coordinator project	2 years	2 years
Ben Daniel	(Project Support Officer)	4 months	4 months
Luis Sanchez	(Project Support EMS) Web based SOE and Sustainability	5 years	
Greening & Waterways Team			
Angela Sheehan	Leading Hand		
Nicola Ambrose	Leading Hand		
Jarret Stark			
Joe Kenny			

BDT Local Government NRM Activities and Skills Inventory

Victoria Bourne			
Brett Goding			
James Benson			
Danny Nuga			
Pest Management			
Darren Alsemegeist	(Coordinator) Pest management preventative programs.		
Andrew Bengsen	(Technical Officer) Pest management preventive programs		
Cathleen Crouch	(Project officer) Pest management		
Parks Services			
Peter McLean	(Parks Services and EMS) Project Officer – NRM works		
Julie Roach	(Horticultural Officer - Parks Services)		
Engineering Services			
Peter Driscoll	(Environmental Engineer - Citiwater)		
Adam Sadler	(Environmental Engineer - Citiworks)		
Gus Bartlett	(Student Environmental Engineer - Citiworks)		

Note: ~1100 staff overall plus temporaries

Council framework and activities



Sustainability Initiatives and Involvement

Corporate Plan/Operational Plan

The Corporate Plan outlines the strategic direction Council pursues over a four year planning period. The current Corporate Plan covers the period 2002 to 2005. Major sustainability initiatives need to be included in the Corporate Plan to ensure implementation and integration across Council departments.

Amongst other items the Corporate Plan refers to:

- National Competition Policy and implementation of full cost pricing for all its business activities;
- Continued support for the Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan.

One of the objectives stated in the Corporate Plan is to “*develop and maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for our City*” (p.iv).

The Operational Plan is the instrument for annual implementation of the Corporate Plan. It provides the detail behind the Corporate Plan including implementation of programs and initiatives via Trading Units (Departments) and Trading Areas (Management areas). Sustainable Townsville falls within the Environmental Services Trading Unit and the Environmental Management Services Trading Area (p.169).

Healthy city plan

The plan was developed with the assistance of Griffith University, School of Public Health, based on the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) *Healthy Cities Approach*. The planning process also utilised a model that recognised the interrelationships between community, environment and economy and the importance of these in achieving “*good health and sustainable human development*” (Townsville City Council 2003, p.4).

Just as a healthy city is reliant on environmental, social and economic factors so is Sustainable Townsville reliant on an agglomeration of factors, including a healthy city. The Townsville healthy city plan is a key component in achieving Sustainable Townsville with many of the requirements for a sustainable city already defined and, in some cases, being implemented.

City Plan 2003

The City Plan is a plan for managing our city’s growth that is balanced, sustainable and responsible. It’s a plan that will ensure Townsville is a liveable and modern city that preserves its unique character and heritage, environment and enviable lifestyle. The City Plan will replace the old town plan, which was introduced in 1994 and no longer meets our needs.

Creek to Coral

The Creek to Coral initiative is about sustainable use and management of marine and freshwater systems in both Townsville and Thuringowa. Creek to Coral also aims to identify and manage factors impacting directly and indirectly on the watercourses and affecting biodiversity within these watercourses.

Urban Stormwater Initiative

The Urban Stormwater Initiative is a Federal program (Environment Australia) launched in 2000. TCC in association with the Townsville Port Authority received funding under the program for the Ross Creek Urban Stormwater Initiative, to implement projects to trial innovative stormwater quality improvement techniques.

Cities for Climate Protection

Council resolved to sign up to the Cities for Climate Protection Program working with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (Australia) and Australian Greenhouse Challenge (resolution passed at Full Council on 28 June 2004).

Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP™) Australia is a program, which assists local governments, and their communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan

The Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan (TTSP) is the product of a regional planning undertaken cooperatively between State and Local Government with the involvement of key community interest groups. It is a framework for managing growth and development in the Townsville-Thuringowa region.

Along with extensive community consultation a number background documents were produced to inform the TTSP. These documents are a valuable resource to inform sustainability initiatives and in some cases to extract baseline information for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Community Natural Resource Management Plans

TCC has provided assistance to Landcare and Catchment Management groups for many years and is currently actively involved in facilitating the establishment and strengthening of the Regional Local Government Network (NRM) through the Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils-North Queensland (HESROC) and Burdekin Dry Tropics Board (BDTB) joint venture project.

Sustainability Initiatives

External/Global	Networks	Plans	Initiatives/Events
Hilltops 2 Oceans Cities for Climate Protection (ICLEI) Solar Cities World Ocean Network	HESROC (and Regional Local Government Network NRM)	Corporate Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creek to Coral • Don't Waste Townsville • Greening Townsville • TravelSmart • EcoFiesta • Trees for Fleet • Sustainable Housing in the Tropics • Kerbside Recycling • Methane Capture Project • Urban Stormwater Quality • Energy Audits • Environmental Management Systems • Strand Wind Project • Hydrological Cycle Projects • Water Efficiency Projects • Various Education and Awareness Programs
	Sustain	Operational Plan	
	THYS	Healthy City Plan	
	Fishwatch	City Plan (Planning Scheme)	
		Eco-tourism Plan	
		Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan	

Appendix K

Workshop Agenda

Local Government NRM Integration workshops - May and June 2005

What are we doing?

- Mapping the network;
(Using the communications pathway maps developed as part of the Regional Local Government Network (NRM) Communication Strategy)
 - Map lines of communication between each Council and the network including type, source and destination of communications;
 - Determine other main NRM communication lines between Council and NRM organisations/people and the main function of the communication;
 - Define the communication objectives of the network and individual Councils;
 - Define the most effective and appropriate pathways and recipients for future communications between the LG Network and individual Councils i.e. Communications Plan tailored for individual Councils.

Outputs: Individual NRM Communication Plans for Councils including maps of communication pathways.

- Determine past and current Council NRM activities including;
 - Name of project, program or activity;
 - Short description of the project, program or activity;
 - Project, program or activity drivers (why is the activity being undertaken) e.g. legislation;
 - The extent of the project, program or activity i.e. it is internal or part of, or linked to, broader programs e.g. Land for Wildlife and Cities for Climate Protection;
 - Any partners involved;
 - Timeframe;
 - Inputs (including expenditure if readily available);
 - Outputs and outcomes (current and expected) including reports, brochures, training programs, guidelines;
 - Plans for other initiatives.

Outputs: Inventory of Council NRM activities including system diagrams and flow charts as appropriate. Table/matrix/map of linkages between Council NRM initiatives and the BDT Regional NRM Plan.

- Determine educational, awareness and capacity raising 'products' associated with Council NRM activities;
(Using the results from the previous exercise)
 - Sort/tabulate output materials;
 - Determine current status of materials i.e. when produced, last reviewed, availability and accessibility;
 - Determine previous distribution/dissemination of materials.

Outputs: Products and materials inventory associated with Council NRM activities.

- Determine Council staff involved in NRM activities and skill levels;
(Using the NRM activities list generated in the previous exercise)
 - List the Council staff involved in Council NRM activities;
 - List the non-Council people involved in Council NRM activities;
 - Develop an interim skills inventory for identified Council staff (and follow up with a brief questionnaire to determine; any formal qualifications, courses completed and practical experience etc and areas where staff would appreciate NRM skills training).

Outputs: Skills inventory of Council staff.

(Note: Some outputs will be developed from workshop outputs and follow up consultation)

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Local Government Regional NRM inventory

Core Council documents;

- Corporate Plan and Operational Plans;
- Planning Schemes (or draft if still being prepared);
- Local Laws and Policy.

Other relevant Council plans (or drafts);

- Pest Management Plans;
- Integrated Environmental Management Plan;
- Stormwater Management Plans;
- Biodiversity Management Strategy;
- Catchment Management Plan;
- Communication Plans/Strategies;
- Any other NRM/environment/sustainability related documents.

Information/brochures/reports on Council programs \ innovations e.g.;

- Land for Wildlife;
- Water reuse and recycling;
- Land rehabilitation \ revegetation;
- Waste management and recycling.

Information/brochures/reports on community \ business partnerships;

- Landcare involvement;
- Envirofunds;
- Sustainable farming support;
- Tourism;
- Natural area management;
- Waterwatch;
- Economic/business development;
- etc.

Appendix L

Relevant Legislation

Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act establishes a Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval system that operates in addition to State systems. Approval is required under the Act for matters that will have or are likely to have a significant impact on environmental matters of national significance.

Under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act, Part 3, Division 1, Subdivision C, prior approval is required for any actions that are likely to result in a significant impact on;

- A - World Heritage [areas]
- B - Wetlands of international importance
- C - A listed threatened species or community
- D - Listed migratory species
- E - Protection of the environment from nuclear actions
- F - Marine environment
- G - Additional matters of national environmental significance

Approval is not required if a bilateral agreement is in operation with respect to the proposed action (as described in Part 4, Division 1) or the proposed action is covered by a Ministerial declaration (as described in Part 4, Division 2).

If the project proponent considers that an action may have a significant impact on any of the environmental features listed above the proposal must be referred to the Minister for a decision to be made as to whether approval of the action is required (part 7, Division 1).

If the Minister decides, on the information provided, that the proposed action is a 'controlled action' then the method of assessing the proposal must be decided (Part 8, Division 3, Subdivision B). The impacts of a proposed controlled action may be in the form of:

- an accredited assessment process
- an assessment on preliminary documentation
- a public environment report
- an environmental impact statement
- a public inquiry

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975

The marine waters in the vicinity of Nelly Bay are within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The jurisdiction ends at the mouth of waterways and does not extend into the waterway regardless of the extent of the inflow of tidal water.

Marine Parks Act 1982

The area and waters between high water and low water were within the jurisdiction of the Townsville-Whitsunday (State) Marine Park up until recent changes associated with rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

"An Act to provide for State planning and development through a coordinated system of public works organization, for environmental coordination, and for related purposes" (p.9). The Act has relatively far reaching powers as the Coordinator-General may "undertake and commission such investigations, prepare such plans, devise such ways and means, give such directions, and take such steps and measures....to secure the proper planning, preparation, execution, coordination, control and enforcement of a program of works, planned developments, and environmental coordination for the State and for areas over which the State claims jurisdiction" (s 10 (2)).

In the absence of other legislation doing so or in conjunction with other legislation and processes “the Coordinator-General may declare a project to be a significant project for which a EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] is required” (s 26 (1)). A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) is made available to the project proponent and their comments are to be taken into consideration when finalising the TOR. The EIS is to be made available for public viewing and any properly made submissions are to be considered in the report prepared by the Coordinator-General about the EIS. The report about the EIS is publicly notified also.

Where development approval is required under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 the development assessment process is modified to incorporate the role of the Coordinator-General as the ‘concurrence agency’ (s 37).

Integrated Planning Act 1997

The Integrated Planning Act (IPA) 1997 is the legislation responsible for determining the parameters of local government Planning Schemes which set the scene for strategic development direction and define the development assessment process. The IPA therefore is instrumental in determining what type of development happens and where it happens.

For most types of development the IPA’s Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) is the coordinating process for development approval. If advice or approvals are required from other agencies the assessment manager (local government) coordinates the responses from the various agencies involved. Development applications need to be consistent with the Planning Scheme for the local government area where the proposed development is located. There are situations where the IPA is overridden by other legislation including road and other infrastructure development.

The assessment statuses of some forms of development are defined in the IPA in Schedule 8. Where the assessment status is not defined in Schedule 8 it is a function of the planning scheme to identify self-assessable and assessable development. All other development not defined as self-assessable or assessable is considered exempt development. Exempt development under IPA is roughly equivalent to development not requiring Council consent under the previous legislation.

Codes are required to assess certain forms of development against. These Codes can be ‘adopted’ from another form of legislation or process e.g. the State Policy on Clearing on Freehold Land under the Vegetation Management Act.

In general the strategic intent of a Planning Scheme under IPA is a driving influence on development for a given local government area while the provisions of the Planning Scheme and the IDAS are the mechanisms for delivery.

IPA also defines requirements for the making of State Planning Policies.

Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act provides a legal framework and guidelines for the operation of local government in Queensland as autonomous bodies independent of State and Commonwealth agencies. The Act enables local government, amongst other things, to make local laws (formerly referred to as By Laws).

Section 26 (1) states “A local government’s jurisdiction of local government includes jurisdiction to make local laws with respect to any matter-

Required or permitted to be prescribed under this or another Act; or
Necessary or convenient to be prescribed or exercised for the carrying out or giving effect to its local laws”.

Where a State and local law are inconsistent “the State law prevails over the local law to the extent of the inconsistency” (s 31 (1)).

The Act establishes the role of local government in setting policy and managing its assets including through the use of local laws. This is particularly relevant as a mechanism for ensuring the safe and equitable use of open space and parklands.

Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Regulations

The act asserts that all persons have a general environmental duty not to cause environmental harm, and to report any harm that does occur.

The Act defines environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) and provides for the issue of licences to carry out various works as well as the nature of Environmental Impact Statements that may be required for ERAs. The provisions for contaminated land are also included in this Act.

The Act also enables subordinate legislation such including Environmental Protection Policies.

Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997

The policy applies to all Queensland waters. The 'environmental values' of waters are to be protected and/or enhanced under the policy. Indicators of environmental values of water can be defined by 'site specific documents', 'documents published by a recognised entity', or the Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Fresh Waters (ANZECC). Water quality objectives are not defined in the policy however water quality objectives are considered to be "the set of water quality guidelines for indicators that will protect all environmental values for the water" (s 11 (2)).

"The chief executive [of the Environmental Protection Agency] may develop a plan to decide priorities for identifying environmental values and water quality objectives" if this has not already taken place (s 12 (1)). The process is carried out in conjunction with the chief executives of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Department of Primary Industries, and in consultation with the community.

Another function of the chief executives is to promote a coordinated approach to educate and inform the community about water quality management issues. The policy is the driver for water quality protection and at the same time provides mechanisms for the achievement of its own objectives.

Under the policy local governments are required to develop environmental plans for a variety of applications including for urban stormwater systems. It is this policy, as subordinate legislation under the Environmental Protection Act that drives the development of Urban Stormwater Quality Management (environmental) Plans (USQMP). A USQMP must improve "the quality of stormwater in a way that is consistent with the water quality objectives for waters affected by the system" (s 42 (1)).

Fisheries Act 1994

The Act regulates "the management, use, development and protection of fisheries resources and fish habitats, and the management of aquaculture activities" (p.11).

Approval is required for various activities associated with fisheries resources and fish habitats including removing, damaging or destroying marine plants such as mangroves and sea grass beds.

Water Act 2000

The Water Act 2000 replaces the Water Resources Act 1989. The Water Act has assumed most of the functions of the Water Resources Act with some of these functions now integrated with the IPA.

One of the main objectives of the Act was to provide a legislative base for water resource plans. Water resource plans have been prepared for some parts of Queensland in an attempt to ensure the sustainable use of the state's water resources. These plans specify allowable water allocations in a designated area, and can include conditions relating to harvesting overland flow water.

While the Act allows for taking and interfering with overland flow water a planning scheme may require Council approval to be obtained for any 'operational works' where there will be a substantial alteration of the natural surface of the land. This may include dams, contour banks, drainage ditches and other earthworks associated with water harvesting and storage, and drainage operations.

With some exceptions approval is required for taking water, or interfering with water flows. Approvals come in the form of water licenses (s 206) and water permits (s 237). If a water resource plan is in place then decisions on the grant of a license or permit must be in accord with the plan. The most significant difference between the license and permit is that a water license is 'attached' to a parcel of land while a water permit is granted for a specified activity not necessarily associated with a particular property e.g. water for road construction works. Water licenses and permits are obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Other approvals required under the act include; riverine protection permits, which can be issued for destroying vegetation, excavating, or placing, fill in a watercourse, lake or spring (s 266), and allocation of quarry material (s 280). Riverine protection permits can be obtained directly from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines while extracting quarry material from waterways requires development approval under IPA.

The relationship of the Water Act to the IPA is defined in sections 966 to 971. This generally relates to development applications under IPA, which require assessment under the Water Act including for;

operational work for taking or interfering with water

removal of quarry material and;

operational work that is construction and maintenance of referable dams (generally >8 metre high walls)

In general, existing applications, licences and permits applied for, or granted, under the Water Resources Act will be honoured under the Water Act (s 1048) and may not require separate development approval.

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld) wildlife species (plant and animal) are prescribed and listed in a number of conservation categories i.e. presumed extinct, endangered, vulnerable, rare, common, international or prohibited. 'Protected wildlife' is a plant or animal in all conservation categories except 'international' and 'prohibited'.

The act provides for the management of 'protected areas', 'protected animals' and 'protected plants'. Protected animals are the property of the State and cannot be taken, used or kept without a permit or under the application of a conservation plan. Protected plants are the property of the State unless they occur on 'private land' i.e. freehold or leasehold.

The Act also provides guidelines for managing National Parks.

Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002

This is the primary act for the control of plant and animal pest species in Queensland. It defines the type of plants and animals that are considered pest species and the level of control required to be undertaken by landholders in relation to each declared pest. The Act also defines the major role local government has in controlling pests and administering sections of the Act.

Vegetation Management Act 1999

The purpose of the act is aimed at achieving sustainability. The act, in the simplest sense, defines what native vegetation can and cannot be cleared. The act is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the Queensland Herbarium, has determined the extent of regional ecosystems and their conservation status. The EPA has prepared regional ecosystem maps and these are used as the principle tool in determining the conservation status of regional ecosystems for the purposes of assessment. The maps are at the 1:100,000 scale and as such they may not delineate small patches, and narrow strips of remnant vegetation. There will also be errors in ecosystem classification as the majority of the work has been carried out using remote sensing. Regional Ecosystem maps can be altered upon application to DNRM and confirmation of the discrepancies. The maps however are the best available data and are defined by the act as the principle reference.

New vegetation management legislation was introduced to the Queensland Parliament on 18 March 2004 and was passed, with minor amendments on 22 April 2004. This was an election commitment of the Beattie government to phase out broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation in Queensland by December 2006. Along with the phasing out of broadscale clearing other amendments to the Act include:

Bringing the tree clearing provisions of the Land Act and the Vegetation Management Act under the one piece of legislation;

Applications for clearing associated with on going activities will be assessed against new regional vegetation management codes (formerly Regional Vegetation Management Plans);

Provision for preparation of Property Maps of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) to define remnant vegetation and previously cleared areas to allow for the management of regrowth;

An interim code for forest practices put in place until the Queensland Forest Practice System code is finalised;

Changes to the definition of 'urban' for vegetation management purposes. Urban areas will be defined by local governments under a Priority Infrastructure Plan. The provisions will have the effect of removing rural residential zones from the current urban area definition and will prevent the high clearing rates associated with the conversion of land from rural to rural residential;

The Act applies to all clearing of vegetation other than vegetation on:

A forest reserve, or protected area (s. 28) under the Nature Conservation Act 1992;

A state forest or timber reserve under the Forestry Act 1959; or

A forest entitlement area under the Land Act 1994.

The purpose is mainly achieved by providing for codes for the Integrated Planning Act (IPA) that are applicable for the assessment of vegetation clearing under the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS). The IPA defines the clearing of most native vegetation as 'assessable development' requiring development approval. Exceptions, not requiring development approval, are listed at item 3A, in Schedule 8 of the IPA.