

Local Government Involvement in the Burdekin Dry Tropics Accredited Regional Natural Resource Management Plan Project

Project Update No. 1 - May 2004

Background

At a Burdekin Dry Tropics Board meeting, 4 February 2004, the Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils - North Queensland (HESROC) proposal to facilitate local government involvement in regional natural resource management (NRM) planning was presented to the Board. The outcome was a commitment by the Board to support the project through provision of funding inclusion.

The project is part of a broader initiative to effectively engage local government in natural resource management (NRM) in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region including the establishment of the ***Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)***.

The immediate aim of the project is to coordinate local government input to the regional NRM plan for the Burdekin Dry Tropics region. The broader initiative provides a pathway for a coordinated approach to local government involvement in regional NRM.

The concept is 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. This involves the establishment of an 'informal' network based on the existing HESROC network and incorporating the non-HESROC Councils within the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM region.

Local government and the regional NRM planning process

The HESROC Councils involved in this initiative are:

- Burdekin Shire
- Charters Towers City
- Dalrymple Shire
- City of Thuringowa
- Townsville City
- Hinchinbrook Shire

Hinchinbrook Shire is almost wholly within the Wet Tropics NRM region and as such does not have direct involvement in this project. Material produced is forwarded to Hinchinbrook for their information. Steps have been taken to extend support for local government involvement in regional NRM beyond the Burdekin Dry Tropics region with conceptual support gained from the Wet Tropics (FNQ NRM Ltd) and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

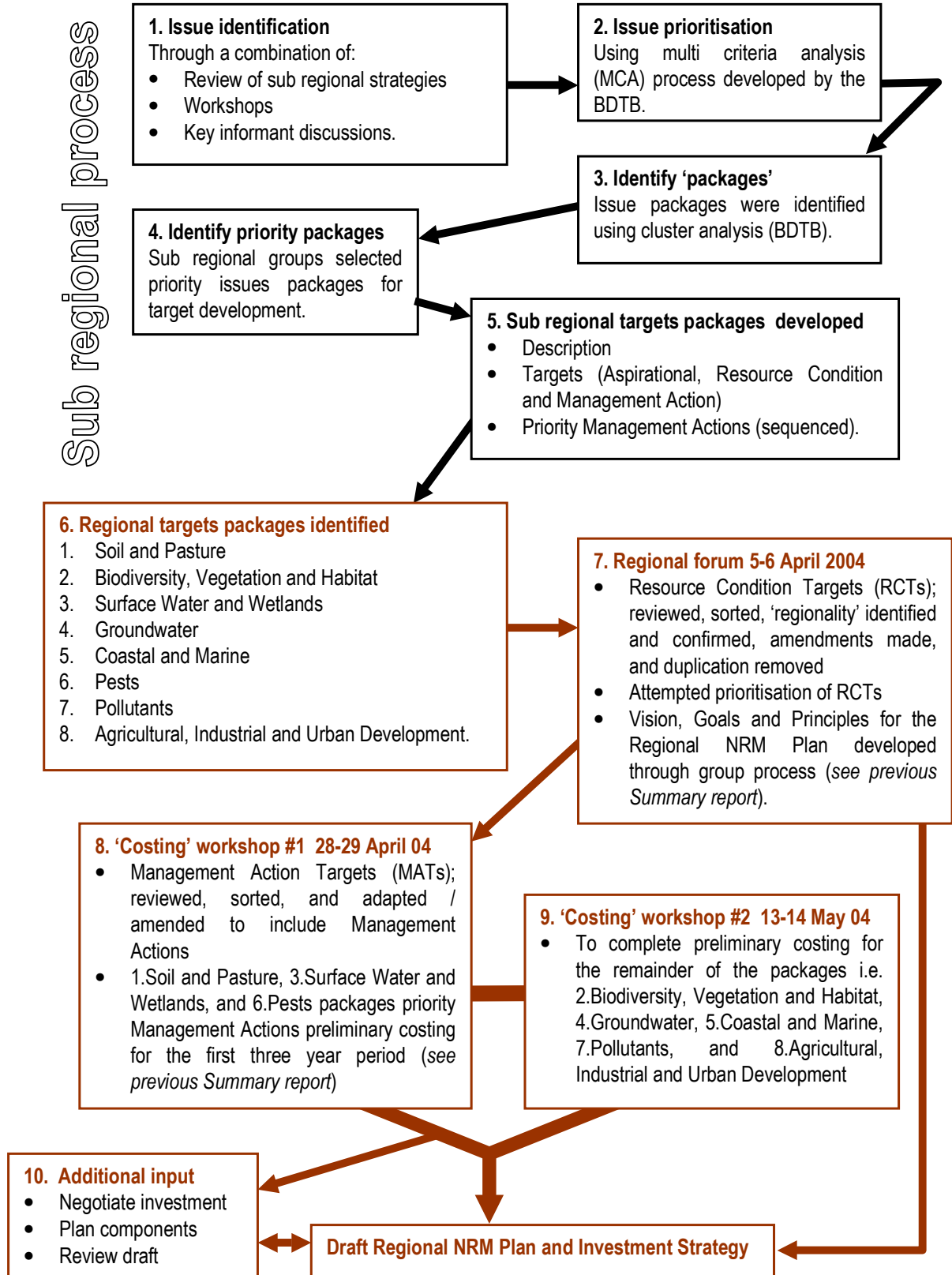
Non-HESROC Councils within the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM region are:

- Belyando Shire
- Bowen Shire
- Jericho Shire
- Nebo Shire
- Mirani Shire

The Burdekin Dry Tropics sub regional NRM groups (see Figure 2) have carried out the 'groundwork' by identifying and prioritising issues and developing 'targets' and priority management actions. The results from the sub regions form the basis for the regional NRM plan. The results from the sub regions are

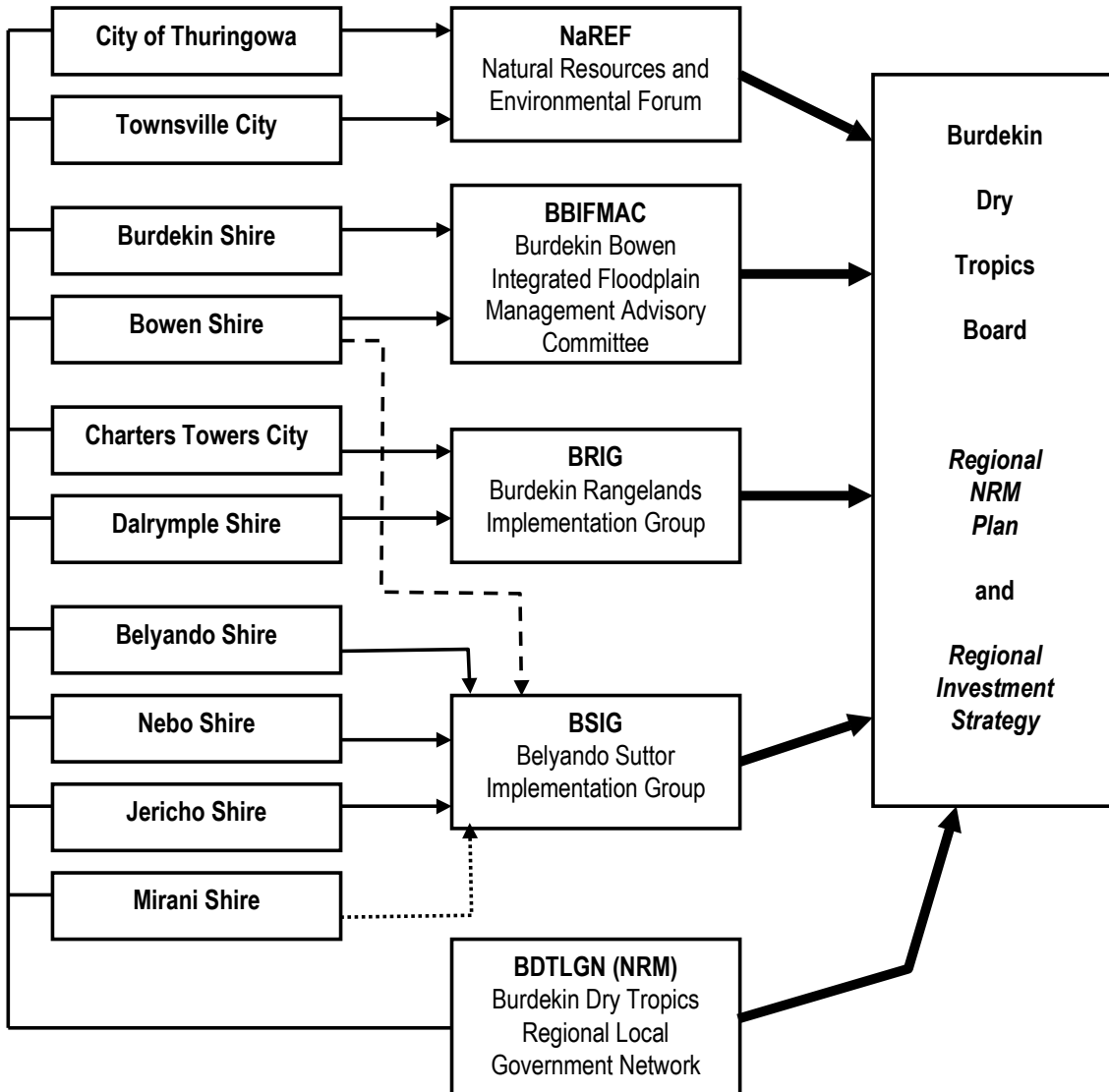
being amalgamated and refined to provide the regional perspective for the Burdekin Dry Tropics (BDT) region. The regional amalgamation process involves all sub regional groups at regional forums and workshops as illustrated in the diagram below.

Figure 1 Representation of the BDT regional planning process



Councils have been involved in the planning process to varying degrees at the sub regional level. The diagram below is a simplified representation of local government involvement in the overall planning process via the sub regions, including the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM).

Figure 2 Local government relationships with BDT sub regions



Project activities to date (11 May 2004)

John Gunn (Earth Environmental) was appointed as consultant HESROC NRM Facilitator in mid February to guide the project and provide an 'immediate' project presence. A list of the main 'communications' to date is provided as Attachment 1.

A summary of the principle activities carried out during the project to date is provided in Table 1. A summary of the principle communication products developed to facilitate the formation of the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM), and to inform the network, is provided in Table 2.

Table 1 Principle activities

| Activity | Comments |
|--|--|
| Liaison with Burdekin Dry Tropics Board staff and Board members. | Initial consultation and negotiation of project work plan was carried out with Arwen Rickert, Planning Officer (since 'promoted' to Executive Officer). Subsequent liaison has been with staff involved in the planning process. Reminders required as material is not 'automatically' forwarded. |
| Liaison with sub regional group coordinators and group members. | Liaison with NaREF, BBIFMAC and BRIG coordinators has been effective while liaison with BSIG coordinator has been less successful due to maternity leave during the process. Have since met Desert Uplands coordinators who have been involved in the BSIG planning stages. |
| Attend NaREF community forum for considering 'Targets' | Held on 6 March 2004 this was the first sub regional community meeting to consider targets. There was a large variation in the 'readiness' of targets to be reviewed. More work was required for targets to be ready for presentation at the regional level. Facilitated the 'Biodiversity Vegetation and Habitat' group |
| Attend BRIG community forum for considering 'Targets' | Held on 23 March 2004. Key stakeholders and 'experts' responsible for draft target setting attended the forum. The availability of target setters made the task easier for community members. |
| Meet with all HESROC Council staff representatives | All the staff representatives of HESROC Councils were contacted about the project. Face to face meetings followed to explain the project and the actions that would take place. |
| Attend Regional community forum for considering 'Targets' | Held 5 and 6 April 2004. Attended by representatives of all sub regional groups, Traditional Owners, BDT Board members and invited agency representatives. Minimal pre sorting of Resource Condition Targets resulted in time being used to carry out 'administrative' work. A prioritisation exercise did not achieve usable results. Vision, Goals and Principles were developed by participants. |
| Contact and meet with non-HESROC Council CEOs | CEOs from all non-HESROC Councils were contacted by the Chair of HESROC, Cr Ann Bunnell. This was followed up by John Gunn up with face to face meetings with Bowen, Nebo and Belyando Shire Council CEOs. Jericho and Mirani CEOs have been contacted but response has not been forthcoming as yet. |
| Attend Regional Investment Strategy Costing workshops | Two workshops were held on 28 and 29 April 2004, and 13 and 14 May 2004. Again minimal pre sorting of Management Action Targets resulted in time used to carry out 'administrative' tasks, which reduced the amount of time spent on costing 'priority' actions. The first workshop was able to achieve costing for three of the eight 'packages'. Less people attended the second workshop. The 'packages' were not as large and a greater amount of pre sorting had been carried out which enabled the remaining 'packages' to be costed in less time. |
| Prepare NHT proposal | Prepared and submitted a NHT Regional Competitive Funding proposal for ongoing funding for local government NRM support and capacity building. |
| Distribution of information | Results from forums and workshops, and other products (see Table 2). |
| Summarisation of sub regional targets packages | Each sub region developed targets for each of the issues/ management packages that were selected as priorities. The targets were then used to amalgamate at the regional level. The sub regional results have been summarised into a single document for each sub region for the information of Councils involved in the relevant sub region (not issued at time of writing). |
| Prepare NAP proposal | Prepared and submitted a NAP Sunrise funding proposal for ongoing funding for local government NRM support and capacity building. |

Table 2 Principle communication products

| Product | Content |
|--|--|
| 'Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning' | An introduction to the project with; Background, Issues, Objectives and outcomes and an indicative work plan showing activities to be carried out during the project. |
| 'NRM Plan Development Progress' | A summary of planning steps to March 2004 with; a schedule showing the main steps, meetings to date and planned meetings and workshops. |
| 'Summary for HESROC' | One page summary for HESROC Councils incorporating the main points about the project. |
| 'Summary for non-HESROC' | One page summary for non-HESROC Councils incorporating the main points about the project and including the diagram showing the relationship between local government and regional and sub regional NRM groups. |
| 'web info' | One page summary for use on the ww web incorporating the main points about the project. |
| 'Regional Forum 5and6-4-04 LGVersion' | A summary of the proceedings and results from the Regional Forum held 5 and 6 April 2004. The main focus of the forum was a review of Resource Condition Targets. |
| Costing workshop 1 summary | A summary of the proceedings and results from the workshop held 28 and 29 April 2004 to sort Management Action Targets and Management Actions and cost priority actions. |
| Costing workshop 2 summary | A summary of the proceedings and results from the workshop held 13 and 14 May 2004 to review Management Action Targets and Management Actions and cost priority actions. |

The main remaining activities for the project are:

- Input to the text of the Regional NRM Plan
 - Currently being drafted the text will describe the 'linkages' between local government in the Burdekin Dry Tropics and regional NRM planning. This will describe the general role of local government in the community, the legislation empowering and driving local government , planning processes and local government involvement and responsibilities, local government regulatory roles and service provision, and the political nature of local government.
- A Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM) Forum
 - to consider the output of the Regional Investment Strategy and the role and involvement of local government in implementation and investment in the priority Management Actions described.

The forum is currently being arranged and is planned for early June, which should allow enough time for the BDTB to compile results from the forum and workshops and pass these to the project facilitator to prepare material for presentation and workshopping at the forum.

Attachment 1 Primary communications for HESROC/BDTB 'Local Government Involvement in the Burdekin Dry Tropics Accredited Regional Natural Resource Management Plan Project'

| Recipient | Date | Format | Orgn | Subject/comments |
|-------------------|---------|----------|---------|--|
| Bruce, Greg | 9 2 04 | Email | towcc | Meeting request for HESROC BDTB project and associated topics |
| Bruce, Greg | 10 2 04 | Email | towcc | Information NHT Reg Comp Funding etc |
| Bruce, Greg | 11 2 04 | Meeting | towcc | Discuss HESROC BDTB local government NRM plan project and develop draft workplan |
| HESROC members | 11 2 04 | Email | hesroc | Request for final comments on HESROC NRM Partnerships and Projects draft report |
| Rickert, Arwen | 12 2 04 | Meeting | bdtb | Discuss HESROC BDTB local government NRM plan project and workplan |
| Zunker, Belinda | 12 2 04 | Email | bdtb | Sent me BDT map |
| Bruce, Greg | 12 2 04 | Email | towcc | Feedback on meeting with Arwen |
| Gonzo, Gus | 17 2 04 | Email | hinsc | Attachment: HESROC NRM Partnerships and Projects draft report |
| Bruce, Greg | 17 2 04 | Email | towcc | Revised workplan for HESROC BDTB local government NRM plan project |
| Rickert, Arwen | 18 2 04 | Emails | bdtb | Have you contacted sub regional coordinators? |
| Rickert, Arwen | 19 2 04 | Emails | bdtb | Sending target setting and other information |
| Gonzo, Gus | 20 2 04 | Phone | hinsc | Comments on HESROC NRM Partnerships and Projects draft report |
| Buono, Terri | 22 2 04 | Email | bbifmac | Meeting request |
| Buono, Terri | 23 2 04 | Meeting | bbifmac | Information on planning process and LG input |
| Andersen, Ruth | 24 2 04 | Email | bsig | Request information on planning process and LG input and meeting |
| Vitelli, Marie | 24 2 04 | Email | brig | Request information on planning process and LG input and meeting |
| Vitelli, Marie | 25 2 04 | Email | brig | Reply would prefer to meet after 9 3 04 |
| Mitchell, Caitlin | 25 2 04 | Meeting | naref | Information on planning process and LG input |
| Rickert, Arwen | 26 2 04 | Meeting | bdtb | Updated workplan forwarded by Greg Bruce |
| Bruce, Greg | 2 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | NHT Reg Comp Funding bid to include Wet Tropics |
| Dorrington, Brad | 2 3 04 | Email | fnqnm | Background for NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and FNQ NRM involvement |
| Vitelli, Marie | 2 3 04 | Phone | brig | To arrange meeting |
| Project product | 3 3 04 | Document | hesroc | Draft Communication Strategy |
| Jayo, Ramon | 4 3 04 | Meeting | dalsc | Project explanation |
| Bruce, Greg | 5 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | Project direction and NHT Reg Comp Funding bid to include Wet Tropics |
| McDermott, Steve | 5 3 04 | Email | bdtb | Draft NHT Reg Comp Funding bid for comment |
| Vitelli, Marie | 5 3 04 | Meeting | brig | Project introduction. Peter Bahr, BRIG Chair, also present |
| NaREF Forum | 6 3 04 | Forum | naref | Target setting forum |

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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|------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---|
| Bruce, Greg | 8 3 04 | Email | towcc | Background material updates |
| Bruce, Greg | 9 3 04 | Email | towcc | On contacting HESROC Councils and latest on NHT Reg Comp Funding |
| Andersen, Ruth | 10 3 04 | Email | bsig | Request meeting |
| Buono, Terri | 17 3 04 | Email | bbifmac | To arrange meeting |
| Bruce, Greg | 17 3 04 | Email | towcc | Arrange meeting |
| Rickert, Arwen | 17 3 04 | Email | bdtb | Advising me of BRIG forum |
| Vitelli, Marie | 17 3 04 | Email | brig | Sent me BRIG workshop information and draft targets |
| Bruce, Greg | 18 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | Update on project and plan actions |
| Vitelli, Marie | 19 3 04 | Email | brig | Sent me draft targets |
| Buono, Terri | 19 3 04 | Meeting | bbifmac | Update on targets and LG input |
| Mitchell, Caitlin | 19 3 04 | Meeting | naref | Update on targets and LG input |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 19 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | Discussion on background material and email project introduction to HESROC members |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 22 3 04 | Email | towcc | Background material for email project introduction to HESROC members |
| HESROC members | 22 3 04 | Email | hesroc | Project introduction from Grant Steen |
| Langburne, Mick | 22 3 04 | Email | chtcc | Attending workshop or arrange meeting Attachments: NRM Plan Development Progress, and Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning |
| Jayo, Ramon | 22 3 04 | Email | dalsc | Attending workshop or arrange meeting Attachments: NRM Plan Development Progress, and Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning |
| Gonzo, Gus | 22 3 04 | Email | hinsc | Introduce amended NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and ask about meeting Attachment: Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning |
| Lyons, Gavin | 22 3 04 | Email | thucc | Meeting request Attachments: NRM Plan Development Progress, and Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning |
| Allpress, Mark | 22 3 04 | Email | bursc | Meeting request Attachments: NRM Plan Development Progress, and Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning |
| Andersen, Ruth | 22 3 04 | Phone | bsig | Request information and/or meeting |
| BRIG | 23 3 04 | Workshop | brig | Target setting confirmation workshop |
| Jayo, Ramon | 23 3 04 | Workshop | dalsc | Interaction at workshop |
| Langburne, Mick | 23 3 04 | Meeting | chtcc | Update on LG network NRM Plan project |
| Dorrington, Brad | 24 3 04 | Meeting | fnqnm | Explain NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and request for support from FNQ NRM |
| Gonzo, Gus | 24 3 04 | Meeting | hinsc | Explain NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and ask about Wet Tropics process |
| Mitchell, Caitlin | 25 3 04 | Email | naref | Sent me final draft targets |
| Andersen, Ruth | 25 3 04 | Phone | bsig | Arrange to arrange meeting for 26 3 04 |
| Bunnell, Ann and Bruce, Greg | 25 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | Update on project and NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal |
| Petrie, Malcolm | 25 3 04 | Email | lgaq | Draft NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal |

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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| | | | | and letter of support request |
| Bruce, Greg | 26 3 04 | Email | towcc | Final NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal |
| Dorrington, Brad | 26 3 04 | Email | fnqnrn | Final NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and letter of support request |
| Petrie, Malcolm | 26 3 04 | Email | lgaq | Final NHT Reg. Comp. Funding proposal and letter of support request |
| Bruce, Greg | 29 3 04 | Email | towcc | Material for letter for HESROC project introduction to non HESROC Councils |
| Allpress, Mark | 30 3 04 | Email | bursc | Meeting request |
| Lyons, Gavin and Lane, Lyonelle | 30 3 04 | Email | thucc | Meeting request |
| Rickert, Arwen | 31 3 04 | Phone | bdtb | Request Regional Forum Agenda |
| Hanlon, Holly | 31 3 04 | Email | bdtb | Regional Forum Agenda |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 31 3 04 | Meeting | towcc | Compose draft letter for HESROC project introduction to non HESROC Councils |
| Andersen, Ruth | 31 3 04 | Email | bsig | Information request as per 24 2 04 |
| Vitelli, Marie | 31 3 04 | Email | brig | Request final draft targets |
| Buono, Terri | 31 3 04 | Email | bbifmac | Request final draft targets |
| Allpress, Mark | 1 4 04 | Meeting | bursc | Update on LG network NRM Plan project |
| Ewart, Gary, and Lyons, Gavin and Lane, Lyonelle | 1 4 04 | Meeting | thucc | Update on LG network NRM Plan project |
| Vitelli, Marie | 2 4 04 | Email | brig | Sent me final draft targets |
| Regional forum | 5 4 04 | Forum | bdtb | See Regional Forum summary |
| Regional forum | 6 4 04 | Forum | bdtb | See Regional Forum summary |
| Non HESROC Councils' CEO | 7 4 04 | Letter | jersc bowsc nebsc belsc mirsc | Attachments: Local Government Involvement in NRM Planning, and Community NRM summary |
| Bruce, Greg | 14 4 04 | Meeting | towcc | Regional Forum update |
| Dale, Allan | 14 4 04 | Email | dnrme | NHT proposal for JSC enquiry |
| Dorrington, Brad | 14 4 04 | Email | fnqnrn | Letter of support request |
| Dorrington, Brad | 14 4 04 | Phone | fnqnrn | Letter of support response via Patrice |
| Dorrington, Brad | 14 4 04 | Email | fnqnrn | Letter of support response |
| Petrie, Malcolm | 14 4 04 | Email | lgaq | Letter of support request |
| Petrie, Malcolm | 14 4 04 | Phone | lgaq | Letter of support response |
| Zunker, Belinda | 14 4 04 | Phone | bdtb | Request Resource Condition Targets |
| Rickert, Arwen | 14 4 04 | Phone | bdtb | Discuss appropriateness of letter from John Woods to Mayor about LG attendance at Regional Forum |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 15 4 04 | Meeting | towcc | Draft letter for JSC NHT proposal direct submission |
| Dale, Allan | 16 4 04 | Email | dnrme | NHT proposal direct submission for JSC |
| Vitelli, Marie | 19 4 04 | Email | brig | Sent me invitation to costing workshop |
| Woods, John | 19 4 04 | Phone | bdtb | Called me with regard to letter to Mayor |
| Bruce, Greg | 20 4 04 | Email | towcc | To arrange meeting for assistance with project tasks i.e. project support officer |
| Rickert, Arwen | 20 4 04 | Email | bdtb | Response to phone conversation |
| Woods, John | 20 4 04 | Email | bdtb | Project summary information |
| Purdie, Keith | 21 4 04 | Meeting | nebsc | Introduction and update on Regional Forum |

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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|--|---------|------------|-------|---|
| Rose, Tim | 21 4 04 | Meeting | bowsc | Introduction and update on Regional Forum |
| Torpy, John | 21 4 04 | Meeting | belsc | Introduction and update on Regional Forum |
| Allpress, Mark | 22 4 04 | Meeting | bursc | Update on Regional Forum |
| Rickert, Arwen | 22 4 04 | Email | bdtb | Sent costing workshop agenda |
| Allpress, Mark | 23 4 04 | Email | bursc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Allpress, Mark | 23 4 04 | Email | bursc | Resend Regional Forum summary attachment |
| Dale, Allan | 23 4 04 | Phone | dnrme | NHT proposal for JSC - message |
| Ewart, Gary, and Lyons, Gavin and Lane, Lyonelle | 23 4 04 | Email | thucc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Gonzo, Gus | 23 4 04 | Email | hinsc | Ask about Wet Tropics meeting and FYI Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Jayo, Ramon | 23 4 04 | Email | dalsc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Langburne, Mick | 23 4 04 | Email | chtcc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Rose, Tim | 23 4 04 | Email | bowsc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 23 4 04 | Email | towcc | Flag; costing workshop, sub regional summary and LG NRM forum Attach: Regional Forum summary |
| Costing workshop | 28 4 04 | Workshop | bdtb | Sub regional coordinators and community members with BDTB staff and consultants. See summary. |
| Costing workshop | 29 4 04 | Workshop | bdtb | Sub regional coordinators and community members with BDTB staff and consultants. See summary. |
| Dale, Allan | 30 4 04 | Phone | dnrme | NHT proposal for JSC response |
| Purdie, Keith | 4 5 04 | Email | nebcs | Network nominee request. Attach: Regional Forum summary and Costing workshop summary |
| Rose, Tim | 4 5 04 | Email | bowsc | Network nominee confirmation request. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Torpy, John | 4 5 04 | Email | belsc | Network nominee request. Attach: Regional Forum summary and Costing workshop summary |
| Allpress, Mark | 6 5 04 | E-mail AMH | bursc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Jayo, Raymon | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | dalsc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |

Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

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|--|---------|--------------|-------|---|
| Gonzo, Gus | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | hinsc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Langburne, Mick | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | chtcc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Ewart, Gary, and Lyons, Gavin and Lane, Lyonelle | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | thucc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Steen, Grant and Bruce, Greg | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | towcc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Howard, Des | 6 5 04 | Email AMH | jersc | A.Hannay intro. Attach: Costing workshop summary |
| Howard, Des | 10 5 04 | Phone | jersc | Message to call to discuss communications |
| Geraghty, Ray | 10 5 04 | Phone | mirsc | Message to call to discuss communications |
| Geraghty, Ray | 10 5 04 | Email | mirsc | Network nominee request. Attach: Costing workshop summary, and LGs in BDT map |
| Howard, Des | 10 5 04 | Email | jersc | Network nominee request. Attach: LGs in BDT map |
| Petrie, Malcolm | 11 5 04 | Email | lgaq | Request notes on non HESROC LGs for BDT NRM plan input |