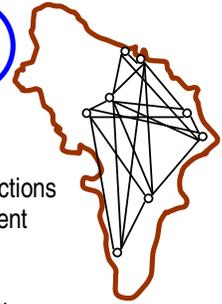


Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Bulletin March 2005



Good News for the BDTB

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Board (BDTB) received some good news in February 2005 in the form of the Joint Steering Committee recommending the Regional NRM Plan and the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) for accreditation.

That was the final hurdle as far as the Plan and RIS are concerned and we now await the formalities i.e. State and Commonwealth Ministers to sign off, and the signing of contracts to receive funding under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust.

Hopefully the formalities will be streamlined and the BDTB will be able to carry on business without any disruptions. There is still a lot of work to be done to enable a smooth roll out of NRM actions over the next 2 and a bit years, as outlined in the RIS.

RIS Workshops

Two Regional Investment Strategy workshops have been held since the issue of the last Bulletin.

The first on 10 and 11 February 2005 was primarily for the sub regional groups to discuss the requirements presented by the Joint Steering Committee to the BDTB. The requirements helped establish the framework for the allocation of funds through the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS).

The main 'shock' for sub regional groups was the announcement that 'direct' funding for sub regional coordinators would not be continued under the RIS. The groups will need to review how they operate and develop a 'business strategy' to enable them to become more self sufficient in a short period of time.

The second workshop held 1 and 2 March was a meeting of stakeholders to determine the type of NRM activities already underway and the people involved in their delivery. With that information

recorded participants then looked at priority actions to be delivered through the Regional Investment Strategy.

As could be expected at the business end of the planning process this was a productive exercise with around fifty stakeholders present at the workshop.

Through participation in working groups and a plenary session your network facilitator and project support officer were able to present the comments and views of the BDT Local Government Network for inclusion in delivery arrangements. We have also negotiated for the comments not captured at the workshop to be added to the workshop results.

Thanks to all the network members who provided us with the information we needed to provide input to the Regional NRM Plan and Regional Investment Strategy to date.

Mapping the Network

It became apparent shortly before the most recent workshop that we need to 'map' the NRM activities carried out by each Council in the network to provide the 'other' side of the NRM picture in the Burdekin Dry Tropics.

If we have a better understanding of the NRM operations of Councils we can better align those activities with the Regional NRM Plan and RIS to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

We propose to hold a series of workshops with network members to map the NRM activities, people involved and their skills, associated information products and distribution methods, and the amount of resources devoted to NRM activities. We will be in contact in the near future to arrange dates for workshops with each Council.

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