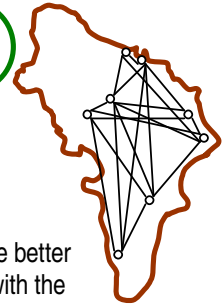


Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)

Bulletin November 2004



Draft Regional NRM Plan Launched

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Natural Resource Management Plan (draft) was officially launched on November 12 at a function in Townsville.

The six week time period for comment started on Saturday 6 November after the Plan was placed on the Burdekin Dry Tropics Board website and advertised in regional newspapers. The Plan can be downloaded from the website along with feedback forms.

The next Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM) meeting will fit in well with the timeframe for submitting comments on the plan. We have until December 18 to compile a joint local government response, with the network meeting planned for **Monday December 6**.

During the speech making at the launch Kirk Smith, the inaugural Chair of the BDTB, expressed his regret that local government had not been better engaged while he was in charge of the process.



New Chair of the BDTB, Mike Cannon, being interviewed at the Plan launch with Senator MacDonald reading the Plan in the background.

He felt that the situation could be addressed in the future and it was not too late to make improvements.

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network is one avenue to ensure better engagement of the local government sector with the BDTB, and respective sub regional groups.

Response to the Draft NRM Plan

The response of local government to the draft Plan will be a defining point for both local government and community NRM in the region. The response will be the cornerstone and direction setter for future partnerships and implementation arrangements.

Given the importance of the task it is imperative that the local government NRM network meeting to be held on **December 6** is well attended and the draft Plan is at least perused by members before the meeting.

Ideally network members will be empowered by their respective Councils to decide on involvement in programs and projects associated with the implementation phase/s, at least at an 'in principle' level. The detail will be filled in as things progress.

Regional Investment Strategy (RIS)

The new timeframe for completion of the RIS is February 2004, to correspond with the submission of the draft Plan for accreditation following incorporation of comments received during the public display period.

Accessing the Draft NRM Plan

The draft Plan is available on the BDT Website at www.burdekindrytropics.org.au

If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to arrange a presentation on the draft Plan to Council, please contact us.

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