

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

**Burdekin Dry Tropics
Local Government
NRM Resources**

August 2005

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Front Cover

Capparis canescens, Wild Orange. A small native tree found through out Queensland & the Northern Territory. Often seen in coastal or riparian areas of the Burdekin Dry Tropics Region, this tree grows to 4m and produces edible fruit and attractive, scented flowers. *(Photo courtesy of Townsville City Council)*

CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM)	1
1.1 Background	1
2. Sources of Resources	2
2.1 Background	2
2.2 Local Government Associations	2
2.3 Commonwealth Government	2
2.4 State Government Agencies	3
2.5 Non-Government Organisations	4
2.6 Consortiums, Networks & Cooperative Research Centres	4
3. Resource List	5
3.1 Websites	5
3.2 Guidelines, Documents and Other Resources	6

Tables

Table 3-1 Relevant NRM Resource WWWeb sites	5
Table 3-2 Guidelines, Documents and Other Resources.....	6

Figures

Figure 1-1 Burdekin Dry Tropics Local Government areas.....	1
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1. *BDT Regional Local Government Network (NRM)*

1.1 Background

The Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM) (the Network) is a relatively new network consisting of the local governments in the Burdekin Dry Tropics (BDT) natural resource management (NRM) region. A map of the BDT region showing the local government areas is provided as Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 Burdekin Dry Tropics Local Government areas



The Network is an alliance of Councils with administration support and contractual auspicing provided by the Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils – North Queensland (HESROC) and Townsville City Council.

2. Sources of Resources

2.1 Background

Depending on their size and population base local governments may not have significant resources to assist with natural resource management (NRM) and sustainability initiatives. This list of NRM resources has been prepared to provide assistance to Network Councils as part of the Burdekin Dry Tropics component of the State Investment Plan (SIP) project CB07.

2.2 Local Government Associations

Local government associations (LGA) have in more recent times recognised the need to assist their members understand and be more involved in NRM. The most relevant LGAs for Queensland are discussed briefly below. Websites of LGAs from other states are also worth exploring as some of their initiatives may be translatable to Queensland.

2.2.1 ALGA

The Australian Local Government Association has been active for several decades, and is the collective voice of local government in Australia. Around 673 councils are represented by the association, on national bodies and ministerial councils. Their main aim is to elevate the needs of local government at the national level.

Improving local environmental outcomes is one of the ALGA's core strategic priorities, and Natural Resource Management is recognised as one of the main areas contributing to this. The ALGA has extensive information helping to define local governments role in NRM as well as promoting access to regional partnerships funding and supporting biodiversity and native vegetation management.

2.2.2 LGAQ

The Local Government Association of Queensland is an organisation that has been in existence for over one hundred years and is committed to strengthen the ability and performance of local government to better serve the community.

They have several policies relating to natural resource management ranging from coastal management to forestry and integration. LGAQ's involvement in NRM mostly relates to capacity building activities, and they are currently carrying out a SIP local government Capacity Building project: (CB01).

2.3 Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government's commitment to community based natural resource management is delivered through two main departments and involves the integrated implementation of the National Action plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust. Many research organisations also operate at the federal level.

2.3.1 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is responsible for activities which enhance the natural resource base on which its' portfolio industries rely. This is achieved by developing national initiatives to address issues of sustainable resources management, conducting research to build an information base and encourage information sharing. They also administer programs that promote widespread adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices.

The DAFF supplies many resources relating to Landcare, and NRM; especially primary production and community engagement. The DAFF is strongly tied in with the national activities of the Landcare movement and the distribution of NHT & NAP funds. (Source: DAFF Website)

2.3.2 Department of Environment & Heritage

The Department of Environment & Heritage (DEH) is responsible for both the natural environment and cultural heritage of Australia. They develop and implement most of the policy and legislation relating to the environment at the national level.

The DEH distributes information on a wide array of topics including many related to community project grants such as Envirofund, and management of natural areas, coastlines, biodiversity, threatened species and other related fields.

An important Resource provided by the DEH is the The Biodiversity Toolbox for Local Government. This provides extensive tools for councils involved in biodiversity planning and integration, available for free from the Internet. Included in the toolbox is a conservation benchmarking framework to allow you to measure your performance during the process. (Source: DEH Website)

2.3.3 CSIRO

The Commonwealth Science & Industrial Research Organisation is one of the world's largest and most diverse scientific global research organisations. Their work touches every aspect of Australian life: from the molecules that build life to the molecules in space. The CSIRO has two main research divisions that involve NRM issues: Land & Water and Sustainable Ecosystems. (Source: CSIRO Website)

2.4 State Government Agencies

State agencies are both regulators and partners in NRM in Queensland. The main agencies involved in NRM in Queensland are listed below.

2.4.4 Department of Natural Resources and Mines

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is committed to enhanced community benefit through sustainable natural resource management. The department manages and allocates the State's land, water, mineral and petroleum resources, and manages native vegetation and the control of pest plants and animals. DNRM works with local governments to implement *The Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* as well as other relevant policies. DNR supplies an extensive series of Facts Sheets, many of which are valuable resources for local government. (Source: DNRM Website)

2.4.5 Environmental Protection Agency / Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services

The EPA is Queensland's state body responsible for nature conservation, environmental management and cultural heritage, while the QPWS manages the states parks & forests. The EPA is relevant to NRM in that it actively works towards protecting biodiversity, coastal areas, and the states various parks and forests. They are involved in the permitting and registering of environmentally relevant activities, and they also run the states EcoBiz program for promoting more sustainable business, which directly involves local government. (Source: EPA Website)

2.4.6 Dept of Local Government and Planning, Sport and Recreation

The DLGP develops and improves frameworks, which deliver a responsive, and effective local government system. They also supply funding to councils to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and services and sustainable development that balances social, economic and environmental values. They help plan sustainable development and provide information on a range of incentives and grants for activities such as sustainable housing.

The Natural Heritage Trust project 'Incorporating natural resource management initiatives into local and regional planning instruments' commenced in Queensland in November 1999. The aim of the project was to trial methods for incorporating natural resource issues into regional planning frameworks in a way that allows them to be more readily translated into local government planning schemes. The project was managed through Local Government and Planning, with support from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, and the Local Government Association of Queensland. Links to outputs from the project are included in Table 3-2). (Source: DLGPSR Website)

2.4.7 Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

The DPIF aims to maximise the economic potential of Queensland's primary industries on a sustainable basis. The DPI offers assistance to landholders undertaking primary production, including training in sustainable practices. They are key players in much of the related research and development undertaken throughout the state. The DPI also supplies information on a wide variety of topics relevant to local government, including; biosecurity, animal welfare, industry development and trade. (Source: DPIF Website)

2.5 Non-Government Organisations

Non-government organisations play an important role in community NRM. Two of the NGOs active in the Burdekin are listed below.

2.5.1 Greening Australia

Greening Australia works in partnership with landholders, the community, government and business to tackle environmental degradation in a practical, apolitical, scientific way.

Among its many other diverse programs, Greening Australia provides the "Exchange: National Vegetation Knowledge Service" which was established to exchange knowledge between the people and organisations who look after Australia's native vegetation. By linking natural resource managers to information, organisations, people, funding sources and research "Exchange" helps to answer regional vegetation management questions.

2.5.2 Conservation Volunteers Australia

For over 20 years Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) has involved thousands of Australians in the care and preservation of their local environment. CVA works in partnership with Regional Bodies, Local Councils, National Parks and community groups across Australia to increase community involvement in practical NRM activities.

2.6 Consortia

A variety of consortia have been set up to pool resources and integrate programs and projects. Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) are one of the main types of consortia.

2.6.1 The Consortium for Integrated Resource Management

CIRM is a partnership across eight research and development (R & D) initiatives. The eight partner organisations are three Queensland Government Departments (Natural Resources and Mines, Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Environmental Protection Agency), three Universities (University of Queensland, Griffith University, James Cook University and Central Queensland University) and CSIRO. CIRM was formed in 1993.

CIRM undertakes much of its activity through its working groups, which are also composed of representatives of all the CIRM partners. CIRM currently has working groups for salinity, social and community dimensions, aquatic ecosystems, vegetation management, water use and reuse and reef catchment.

2.6.2 Cooperative Research Centre for Coastal Zone, Estuary & Waterway Management

The Coastal CRC provides decision-making tools and knowledge necessary for the effective management and ecosystem health of Australia's coastal zone, estuaries and waterways. Their goal is to bridge the gaps between science, the community and policy making organisations. Coastal CRC carries out quality science within five interlinked themes in management study areas, using participatory approaches with stakeholders.

<http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/aboutus.html>

2.6.1 Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Savanna Management

The Savanna CRC is focused on research related to the plants, animals and land-management issues of the north's major landscape feature, the Tropical Savannas. Specifically they are concerned with issues such as sustainable industries, fire, weeds, water, vegetation and climate, and have produced numerous documents on effectively managing this important landscape.

3. Resource List

3.1 Websites

Huge volumes of information are now available on the World Wide Web. Some relevant sites are listed in Table 3-1 (organisations) and Table 3-2 (resources).

Table 3-1 Relevant NRM Resource WWWeb sites

Description	URL Address
Local Government Associations	
ALGA - Australian Local Government Association	http://www.alga.asn.au/policy/environment/nrm/
LGAQ - Local Government Association Queensland	http://www.lgaq.asn.au/portal/dt/
Federal Government	
DAFF - Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.	http://www.daff.gov.au/
DEH - Department of Environment & Heritage	http://www.deh.gov.au/
NHT - Natural Heritage Trust.	http://www.nht.gov.au/
Australian Government Envirofund	http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund
NAP - National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	http://www.napswq.gov.au/
Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation.	http://www.csiro.au/
State Government Agencies	
DNRM - Department of Natural Resources and Mines	http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency	http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/
DLGPSR - Department of Local Government and Planning, Sport and Recreation	http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/
DPIF - Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/
Non Government Organisations	
Greening Australia	http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/
Conservation Volunteers Australia	http://www.cva.org.au/index.asp
Consortiums, Networks & Cooperative Research Centres (CRC)	
Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Local Government Network (NRM)	http://69.61.24.191/regional_nrm/hesroc/hesroc_bdt.html
The Consortium for Integrated Resource Management	http://www.cirm.org.au/
The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme – Home Page	https://www.crc.gov.au/Information/default.aspx
CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary & Waterway Management	http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/aboutus.html
CRC for Tropical Savanna Management	http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/
Weeds Australia - An Australian Weeds Committee National Initiative	http://www.weeds.org.au/

3.2 Guidelines, Documents and Other Resources

A sample of some of the NRM resources available to local government is listed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Guidelines, Documents and Other Resources

Document	Description	Distributed by
National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy	Represents an agreed Local Government position at the national level on the Management of our biodiversity.	ALGA with BDAC
Social Innovations in Natural Resource Management	A handbook of social research in natural resource management in Queensland.	CIRM
Social and Community Dimensions of Natural Resource management	Provides an overview of issues and related research on the social and community dimensions of natural resource management,	CIRM
Toward a Collaborative Model of Industry \ Community in Environmental Management .	A technical report on strategic action to facilitate this process.	Coastal CRC
Bridges and Barriers to Collaborative Natural Resource Management.	A discussion paper explaining some of the current positives and constraints found in working towards collaborative NRM.	Coastal CRC
A Review of Economic Instruments for Environmental Management in Queensland	This paper reviews the economic instruments to support environmental management currently available in Queensland, provides some guidance for their application and describes a policy framework for managing environmental degradation	Coastal CRC
A review of techniques to value environmental Resources in Coastal Zones	This paper provides an overview of a number of environmental valuation techniques, considers the pros and cons of each and the usefulness of these techniques for the requirements of the Coastal CRC	Coastal CRC
Regulatory Controls for Queensland Wetlands	The Ramsar definition forms the basis of wetland definitions used in Australian Commonwealth and State wetland policies, definitions of wetlands in legislation are rare. Instead, the implementation of legislation relating to wetlands is guided by a number of wetland inventories with differing objectives, methodologies and coverage	Coastal CRC
Efficient Urban Water Systems: Water-smart tool and technologies	Water wise solutions for commercial and residential developments.	CSIRO
Waste Water Re-Use Stormwater Management and the National Water Reform Agenda.	Discusses possible policy directions for wastewater re-use and improved stormwater management given in the water sector framework set out in the COAG National Water Reform Agenda.	CSIRO
Burdekin Catchment Condition Study	Overview of key Natural Resource Management Issues in the Burdekin	CSIRO

	Catchment, with particular reference to Water Quality and Salinity	
Guidebook to Environmental Indicators.	An online guidebook to Environmental Indicators	CSIRO
Social and Economic Issues in Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management.	A comprehensive report on issues relating to NRM in the region.	CSIRO & BDTB
Alternative Policy Approaches to Natural Resource Management	Background report to the Natural Resource Management Taskforce on innovation in NRM policy making.	DAFF
Community Landcare, the National Landcare Program and the Landcare movement: the social dimensions of Landcare.	A review of existing social science understanding of the Landcare movement.	DAFF
Understanding Landholders capacity to adopt sustainable practices	An attempt to understand what motivates people whose every day decisions and action influence land management.	DAFF
National Action Plan Fact sheet	Overview of the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality.	DAFF
Moving Forward in Natural Resource Management Fact Sheet	A brief look at the contribution that science, engineering and innovation can make to NRM.	DAFF
Landcare Innovations Guide	A Guide to Innovations in Landcare Technologies & Practices	DAFF
The Biodiversity Toolbox for Local Government	Designed to provide councils with the tools, resources and contacts to integrate biodiversity conservation into all aspects of Council operations.	DEH
Beyond roads, rates and rubbish: Opportunities for local government to conserve native vegetation	In depth review of opportunities for local government to become involved in native vegetation management.	DEH
http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/toolbox/index.html	The Biodiversity Toolbox for Local Government is designed to provide councils with the tools, resources and contacts to integrate biodiversity conservation into all aspects of Council operations.	DEH
http://www.deh.gov.au/land/pressures/firewood/	Firewood is a web-based collection of resources to assist the community to adopt more ecologically aware firewood collection practices and better storage and burning techniques.	DEH
Developing a Water Quality Policy for Central Queensland	Describes the Processes and information used to develop the policy for maintenance and enhancement of water quality in central Queensland.	DLGP
Policy for the Maintenance and Enhancement of Water Quality in Central Queensland.	The Policy developed for the enhancement of water quality in Central Queensland as a result of the LGAQ, DNRM and DLGP NHT project.	DLGP
Guidelines for Incorporating Water Quality Issues into Local Government Planning Schemes in Central Queensland.	Provides Guidance on how the Policy above can be incorporated into local government planning schemes.	DLGP
Runoff & Flow Coordination Framework for the Condamine Floodplains.	Provides a framework for improved coordination of floodplain management and planning processes relating to runoff and flow.	DLGP
Guidelines for Incorporating Runoff & Flow Coordination into Local Government Planning Schemes on the Condamine Floodplains.	Helps incorporate the above management actions into planning schemes.	DLGP

Water Metering: An information Guide	Information on DNRM's state-wide water metering program.	DNRM
Metering Water Extractions Policy	State policy on the effective measurement of the use of this vital resource.	DNRM
Pest Status Review series.	Regular review of the declared species in Queensland.	DNRM
Declared Plants of Queensland & Pest Facts Series	Nearly 80 different facts sheets on a wide range of pest plants & animals in Queensland.	DNRM
http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/factsheets/index.php	Facts Sheets	DNRM
http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests/legislation/legislation/lp_act.html	Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002	DNRM
Interim Guideline: Koalas & Development.	Guidelines for Achieving Koala compatible Development.	EPA
Biodiversity Incentives Tender	Frequently asked questions and answers on this initiative.	EPA
EcoBiz	Information on EcoBiz, the EPA program designed to provide assistance for businesses in Queensland to develop or adopt sustainable practices.	EPA
Exchange	Exchange: National Vegetation Knowledge Service - is a service provided by GA to exchange knowledge between the people and organisations who look after Australia's native vegetation. By linking natural resource managers to information, organisations, people, funding sources and research Exchange helps to answer regional vegetation management questions.	GA
Bush Tracks Online	Bush Tracks Online contains a selection of publications used by natural resource managers, extension agents, educators and scientists throughout Australia.	GA
Cost of Revegetation	A report detailing the cost of revegetation activities, useful for producing detailed funding proposals necessary for many grant applications.	GA & ANU Forestry
Natural Resource Management In Queensland Local Government	Details 32 case studies of Local Government in natural resource management (NRM) from 2000.	LGAO (Cost: \$22.00)
Land use & the Great Barrier Reef	A brochure tying together the current knowledge on land use adjacent to the reef, and the potential impacts.	Reef CRC.
Fire Management in the Rangelands	This publication reports on a review of fire management in Australia's rangelands commissioned by the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage under the Natural Heritage Trust.	Savannas CRC
Savanna Burning	This book contains extensive information on fire use through out northern Australia, such as Savanna fire regimes, effects on the landscape & tolls for land managers.	Savannas CRC
Evaluating Regional Plans in Australian Tropical Savannas.	Created to support regional planners intending to revise or review existing regional natural resource management plans, or in developing	Savannas CRC

	new regional plans.	
Supporting Integration of Regional Vegetation Management Planning & Regional NRM Plans & Arrangements	A supporting document to the <i>Regional NRM Plan Guidelines</i> . It is aimed at regional bodies and regional agency planners, on practical approaches for improving integration between their planning activities, and may be useful to local governments in reviewing & adding to regional plans.	Savannas CRC
Supporting Integration of Water Resource Planning & Regional NRM Plans & Arrangements	A similar document to the one mentioned above, however it is focused on Water Resource Use & Planning.	Savannas CRC
Healthy Rangelands: principals for sustainable systems. Focused on Burdekin catchment	Contains information from various sources relating to land use management and biophysical aspects of the Burdekin catchment.	Savannas CRC (Cost: \$49)
Fire Management Operation Manual	Guidelines for planning and conducting fuel reduction and ecological burns on your property.	SEQ FBC
North Australian Fire Info	North Australian Fire Information - Contains maps, data and tools to assist with the effective fire management of Australia's north.	

Abbreviations/Acronyms used

ALGA	Australian Local Government Association
BDAC	Biological Diversity Advisory Council
BDT	Burdekin Dry Tropics
BDTB	Burdekin Dry Tropics Board
CIRM	The Consortium for Integrated Resource Management
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Science & Industrial Research Organisation
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEH	Department of Environment & Heritage
DLGPSR	Department of Local Government and Planning, Sport and Recreation
DNRM	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
DPIF	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HESROC	Health and Environmental Services Regional Organisation of Councils – North Queensland
GA	Greening Australia
LGA	Local government associations
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NRM	Natural resource management
QPWS	Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services
SEQ FBC	Southeast Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium
SIP	State Investment Plan