



REGIONAL UPDATE

Executive Officer, Darlene Irvine...

NBN Submission

On Friday 9 September 2011, Fiona Wilson, David Ives and myself met with Kevin Brown (Head of Corporate Services) and Duncan Bremner (Stakeholder Relations) from NBN Co to hand deliver our submission for early rollout of high speed broadband within the region. The submission was well received and the outcome of the discussions was a clear message to focus on four key areas, being:

1. Demonstrate community engagement
2. Being ready to streamline planning processes
3. Support at State and Federal level for high speed broadband
4. Galvanise demand

As a result of this meeting Kevin Brown will be in Cairns on 14 November 2011 and would like to meet with local, State and Federal representatives and the community. We will be organising another lunch event in Cairns at which Kevin will make a presentation to the community and partake in a Q&A session. We have done our part to garner interest in the region, now we need your support to show we need it and you want it. Please support this lunch event and when the flyers are available please send them to your networks.

Correction

...in last month's update we advised the Federal Government provided funding to the new Jubilee Bridge project. Unfortunately, this was NOT the case.

We have moved!

FNQROC is now based at the corner of Grafton and Hartley Streets, Cairns – adjacent to Australia Post and across the road from the Cairns Convention Centre. Be sure to call in if you are in the city. Thank you to Cairns Regional Council for its continued in-kind support for accommodating us.



Drive North Queensland Workshops

Savannah Way has obtained funding from Tourism Queensland to facilitate workshops which will assist local Councils and businesses to understand some of the changes occurring in Queensland's touring market. The composition and travel patterns of North Queensland's touring visitors are becoming more complex. "Grey Nomads", "RV Travellers", backpackers and European drive travellers are challenging the traditional offerings of some towns, caravan parks and businesses and Savannah Way Limited is holding workshops to help local stakeholders clarify how they can respond.

FNQROC has supported a “drive north” strategy and there is benefit in taking advantage of this opportunity. The workshop will be facilitated by Colin Balfour, Management Consultant and Market Researcher with more than 30 years experience in the Australian tourism industry. As well as presenting a range of research findings, Colin will facilitate an interactive workshop to help local communities get the most out of their touring market.

Each workshop will run from 9am to 12.30pm and the dates and locations include:

- Monday 17 October 2011 - Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Tully
- Monday 7 November 2011 - Cairns Regional Council (Spence Street)
- Wednesday 9 November 2011 - Atherton International Club
- Thursday 10 November 2011 - Georgetown Community Hall

If you would like to attend or find out more about these workshops please contact Russell Boswell at info@savannahway.com.au or phone 0408 772 513.

Drinking Water Quality Management Plans

I have had an initial meeting with key council staff regarding Drinking Water Quality Management Plans. These plans predominately need to be completed by Council staff but we will be working collaboratively in commencing the project by organising risk assessment workshops. We will hold a regional workshop to get the thought patterns happening, before arranging one in each Local Government area. Thank you to Cairns Regional Council for releasing the work it has done to date to member councils.

Regional Development Manual

The Regional Development Manual has suffered some neglect over the past year due to other regional priorities and the wait for further information on State planning policies and the NBN. It has been decided that a line needs to be drawn in the sand and a reviewed manual finalised for Councils to release for public consultation. There will be three stages to this which will occur over the next month:

1. As-Constructed information
The information contained within the As-Constructed section of CP1 has become quite large, particularly with the expansion of the attributes required for asset management purposes. We are reviewing this section of the manual to try and obtain some consistency with other Local Governments. Industry involvement has been invited. To commence this process, representatives on the technical committee and industry representatives have reviewed alternative specification frameworks - 'a-spec' and 'ADAC'. It was decided that we would further assess our current requirements against the IPWEAQ ADAC specifications. There appears to be a clear line of sight from 'As-Con' specifications to the national framework for asset management which fits very nicely with the work Councils have been undertaking and our Regional Asset Management Strategy. We have also viewed some interface systems which are designed to speed up the process (for both council and industry) in the lodgement of 'As-Constructed' information.
2. Water and Waste sections of the manual
A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 2 November 2011 to finalise the amendments to this section.
3. Remainder of the manual (including 'As-Constructed')
A meeting has been arranged for Friday 28 October 2011 to finalise these amendments.

REGIONAL PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Regional Planning and Sustainability Coordinator, Daniela Gambotto...

FNQROC Sustainability Group members were honoured to be invited to the new Johnstone River Community Garden which recently celebrated its first birthday. The garden, as the name suggests, is located on the banks of the Johnstone River (the Northern branch). The site was originally used as an orchard by the adjoining TAFE and some of the original fruit trees still

remain.

Included are a series of plots for individual and community group use, a long strip of revegetated land along the banks of the North Johnstone River, the orchard, a natural amphitheatre, a multicultural garden, mandala gardens, and scatterings of local and exotic fruit trees.

Bernie Holden, the coordinator and key driver behind the establishment, kindly gave us a tour. Even though the garden has only been running for a little over 12 months, Bernie discussed the many benefits the garden is already providing to the local community. From engaging with youths who have been caught up in the legal system, to respite and disability services, to the multicultural community of the Cassowary Coast region, the garden is a hub for social and cultural interactions.

And the social outcomes are only the start of it. The community garden is a model of best environmental practice. The eradication of pest plant species and revegetation of the banks of the river, the production of local food, the composting of food scraps from local eateries, and a community recycling station are just some of the environmental features of this facility.



Members of the FNQROC Sustainability Group tour the Johnstone River Community Garden.

Bernie discussed long-term plans to construct a community kitchen, undertake earthworks to enhance drainage of the site, and work with teaching staff from the college/TAFE to entrench sustainability as a key component of the curriculum.

FNQROC has donated a lemonade tree to the community garden as a sign of gratitude to Bernie for showcasing the garden to the group. I am sure most of the participants were inspired by the model there - a true example of quadruple bottom line sustainability in action!

Next month... the FNQROC Planners Group hits Cooktown!

REGIONAL PROCUREMENT

Regional Procurement Coordinator, Steve Cosatto...

Water and Waste Committee

The template tender and contract document has been forwarded to the solicitors for its final legal review. Our intention is to ensure we have a robust document where all participating Councils can comfortably operate.

We have also drafted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which will aid Councils which participate in it and future contracts in matters such governance, roles and responsibilities and dispute resolution. The document will be presented at the October FNQROC Board meeting for the Board's recommendation.

I presented to the Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) in September. The purpose of the presentation was to provide the working group with:

- status regarding FNQROC Procurement
- the guidelines established by the FNQROC Board
- advice regarding the available resource, not only for procurement but also for market research (ie Expressions of Interest, information benchmarking and communication channelling to suppliers and to respective procurement coordinators for each Council.
- advice they are not obliged to act as a whole, any combination of councils can forward a request through their working group for consideration.

The Committee has expressed an interest in investigating ammunition and other unique purchases which will be further investigated after we release our first tender.

As an example of what we cannot participate in, a recent request from the Sustainability Group was for the regional procurement of recycled paper. Whilst the proposal has merit and we welcome all requests, we had to decline in this instance. Our procurement guideline is to act where there exists limited supply for a product and/or service. In the case of recycled paper there are multiple suppliers to the area which places this request outside the guidelines we need to work within.

REGIONAL NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Regional Natural Asset Management Coordinator, Travis Sydes...

Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society northern showcase

I was joined by John Clarkson (Principal Botanist from Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service) in hosting the FNQROC-sponsored northern field trip as part of the recent APWSS conference in Cairns recently. The conference attracted delegates from all across the great Asia-Pacific Region to discuss the latest in weed science, management and policy. The field trip had a diverse mix of delegates from Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, China, New Zealand, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, USA and Australia.

The tour did a circuit from Cairns to Mossman returning via Mareeba and Kuranda and focused on both the rainforest weeds (hiptage vine, miconia tree, pond apple, Koster's curse) of the tropical coast as well as the high biomass grasses (hymenachne, giant rats tail, gamba, grader and thatch grass) of the Tablelands Savannah.

A fantastic day was had by all and it was a great opportunity to showcase some the unique issues and expertise from across the region. A huge thank you goes to Liz Collyer and staff from the Mossman office of Cairns Regional Council for their hospitality and to Melissa Collins (CRC), Sid Clayton (TRC) and Rachel Macfayden (Queensland Weeds Society) for sharing their time and expertise.



Melissa Collins from Cairns Regional Council explains the principles of a systems repair approach. These rainforest seedlings from the Mossman nursery will be used to recover weed infested sites after control like the post-control restoration example behind the conference delegates.

Delegates from Pakistan jumped at the chance to pose for a photo with Tablelands Regional Council's mobile wash down unit after a presentation on weed hygiene from Sid Clayton (right).



This month in natural asset management:

Work is in full swing on a range of projects and collaborations across the region these include pest management planning (Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council), Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Cairns Regional Council), Natural Asset Management Planning (Cassowary Coast), Natural Asset Management Strategy Development (Tablelands Regional Council), Bloomfield Valley Horse Management Program (Cairns, Cook Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council).

This month also saw the review of the National Cost-Shared Siam Weed Eradication Program. An update on the progress of the review should be available by the end of November.

CSIRO Tropical Forest Research Centre Open Day, Atherton 8 October 2011, 10am to 4pm

CSIRO and other agencies will be opening their doors to the public for a showcase of tropical research and expertise. The day includes displays, aboretum tours, forums and kids activities.

Other partners on site include Cape York and Terrain Natural Resource Management, James Cook University, Australian Tropical Herbarium and Barron River Integrated Catchment Management Association.

CSIRO has long been a collaborator and partner with Local Government across the region and FNQROC will be on hand to showcase some of the key projects which are underway.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator, Gerard Read...

Regional Road Group

Roads Alliance and Department of Transport & Main Roads

The Roads Alliance Board and DTMR have recently released its new TIDS Policy, TIDS Cycleways Funding Guidelines and Roads Alliance Operational Guidelines. Some key points:

TIDS Policy

- Base and RRG TIDS has been combined into one category. This is prioritised and allocated on an RRG basis.
- RRGs can allocate up to 20% of the combined category to Non LRRS.
- RRGs can allocate up to 2.5% of the combined category to capability development.
- The two former SafeST TIDS categories and the Safer School Bus Routes program have been combined into one SafeST category. This is prioritised and allocated on a TMR regional group competitive basis ie. Cairns, Townsville and Cloncurry TMR regions have a combined fixed allocation for distribution.
- RRGs may transfer LRRS and Non LRRS TIDS allocations to SafeST projects.

- A \$4m TIDS Cycleways allocation is now available to all of the state – not just South East Queensland.
- The 85% TIDS expenditure target has been incorporated into the policy. This applies to two consecutive years and excludes ATSI TIDS.

TIDS Cycleways Funding Guidelines

- Funding is available to any Council which is a member of an RRG, which is now all Councils in Queensland.
- This is prioritised and allocated on a State-wide competitive basis, with projects assessed and endorsed by the individual RRG in the first instance.
- Projects can be for on-road cycle facilities, off-road cycleways and shared paths, and crossing provisions.
- Projects will be assessed against three criteria
 - Strategic Importance – contributes to Queensland Cycle Strategy, Principal Cycle Network Plan or meets an identified TBL need.
 - Connectivity – access to key attractors eg. CBDs, education and recreation facilities.
 - Safety – based on risk assessment against traffic.

TIDS Bid Pool

The Roads Alliance has also written to all RRGs regarding long-standing unspent TIDS funding. It is proposed to “pool” the funding from any RRG projects across the State allocated in 2009/10 or earlier that have no expenditure. RRGs will then be able to bid for funding from this pool on a State-wide competitive basis for prioritised projects.

Councils are again reminded to ensure reimbursement claims are submitted to TMR for any unclaimed expenditure on the whole TIDS program.

Project Prioritisation Tool

The RRG is currently in the process of reviewing the various weightings and criteria used to prioritise the works program. This has not been done for a few years and it should be reflective of the RRG’s investment strategy/direction for the LRRS network.

Cape Tribulation - Bloomfield Link

WTMA representatives will be attending the RRG Meeting to be held in Innisfail on Monday 10 October 2011 to address and progress future development of the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield LRRS link.

Bridge Management System

Mark De Hayr will be attending the next Technical Committee meeting to present details of his Bridge Management System software and future development possibilities and costs. If FNQRRG wishes to proceed from there, an application for funding assistance will be made to the Roads Alliance Board through the Statewide Capability Development Fund.

“MetroCount” Training

A successful training session in the use of the “MetroCount” traffic counter units and software was held in Cairns on Friday 23 September 2011. Representatives from Croydon, Etheridge, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Wujal Wujal and Tablelands attended.

State Government Standing Offer Arrangements

Councils can use purchasing arrangements established by State Government agencies provided the agency controlling the particular arrangement agrees and the supplier on the arrangement agrees. Not all of the DTMR arrangements can be used by other government groups. Bitumen is a prime example where DTMR’s supplier has chosen to deal with other groups under different terms and conditions than those they have offered to DTMR.

The Roads Alliance Project Team is working on a list of SOAs which DTMR deals with, which will include the relevant contact.

These websites below also provide information on the SOAs. The DSOAs are listed in the Queensland Contracts Directory, hosted by QGCPO:

<http://gcd.govnet.qld.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx> (GovNet access only)

<http://gcd.qgcpo.qld.gov.au/pages/home.aspx> (public site)

In the interim any inquiries should go through the following DTMR purchasing general mailbox:

www.programprocurement@DTMR.qld.gov.au

Next Technical Committee Meeting

PLEASE NOTE - The next Technical Committee meeting has been changed from Cooktown to Chillagoe. It remains on Thursday 10 November 2011 at 2pm and will be held at The Chillagoe Hub, 21-23 Queen Street, Chillagoe. The Technical Committee will be undertaking an inspection of Tablelands LRRS and projects on the Thursday en route to Chillagoe, and also on Friday 11 November 2011.

DATE CLAIMERS 2011

The **FNQROC and FNQRRG Meetings** (FNQROC Organiser: Darlene Irvine; FNQRRG Organiser: Gerard Read).

FNQROC	FNQRRG
Monday 10 October 2011, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Innisfail – 10am	Monday 10 October 2011, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Innisfail – 1.30pm
Monday 12 December 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 10am	Monday 12 December 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 1.30pm

FNQ Regional Road Group TC Meetings (FNQRRG TC Organiser: Gerard Read).

Thursday 10 November 2011, Chillagoe

FNQ Procurement Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Steve Cosatto).

Water and Waste Committee – to be advised
General Committee – Friday 14 October 2011, Cairns Regional Council, 10am

Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Travis Sydes).

Friday 15 November 2011, Tablelands Regional Council

Regional Asset Management Committee Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Gerard Read).

Thursday 10 November 2011 – Cairns Regional Council, 10am

FNQROC Sustainability Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Daniela Gambotto)

Friday 2 December 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

FNQROC Planning Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Daniela Gambotto)

Friday 7 October 2011 – Cairns

Friday 16 December 2011 – Cairns

FNQROC CONTACT DETAILS

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ *A fear of dying laughing is called cherophobia.*
- ❖ *When the human body is dehydrated, the thirst mechanism shuts off and you never get thirsty.*
- ❖ *Ancient Greek or Roman men had a lifespan of 36 years.*

The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to *matter*, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all. ~ *Leo Rosten*