



NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

Executive Officer, Darlene Irvine...

In the interest in not overloading you with various pieces of information, I wanted to focus my report on one topic that should be given some attention: the Digital Economy Strategy (NBN early roll out push).

This project has grown at significant speed recently. As you all will be aware, we have engaged Mach Technologies to assist with the networking, knowledge and direction which was stage 1 of our project.

To give an update:

Letter expressing Interest in early rollout of NBN

A letter signed by the mayors advising of our intent has been sent to NBN Co.

Consultancy for stage 2

We have been working with DEEDI to obtain funding to undertake the survey work. A draft Terms of Reference has been developed and consultants who tendered in the first instance will be invited to submit an application to an amended stage 2 based on the knowledge we have developed to date. Stage 2 will include identifying the drivers and impediments to take-up of high speed broadband services, identify training needs, identify potential impacts of an NBN connection, and identify in which way DEEDI and councils can assist businesses in adopting and utilising high speed broadband services to benefit their businesses. Possibilities could include case studies for tourism, Cairns Entertainment Precinct, Malanda Rural Village network, JCU, training and remote research and monitoring.

Full submission and NBN Data Specification Sheet

The submission is currently in development and information has been forwarded to identified staff to collate some information for us. It is hoped this submission will be completed in early July.

Business / Industry Capability Profile

We will be advertising to collect information to form a capability profile of the resources available within our region to help deliver NBN locally. This will then be linked to any specialised training that maybe needed. This tact has been taken to try and promote the use local expertise where possible, rather than import jobs.

Marketing and Communication Plan

Will form part of our formalised submission to NBN Co.

Contact Groups

We have at this stage 4 contact groups:

1. Council working group
2. Interest group
3. Industry reference group (construction?)
4. Industry reference group (ICT + ISP)

If you know of anyone who should be on one of these groups please do not hesitate to let me know.

Broadband for Breakfast Event

We are in the process of developing two information events. One to be held in Cairns and the other to be held on the Tablelands later on the same day. The purpose of the event is education, information and stimulus and inspiration. It is envisaged that we will have a representative from DEEDI, NBN Co, David Ives (our consultant) and perhaps someone from JCU.

We are yet to confirm the date but we are looking at July at this stage. Information will be forwarded to all when we get the details bedded down in the next two weeks.

PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY***Regional Planning and Sustainability Coordinator, Daniela Gambotto...*****Decision Support Tool training course - Mission Beach Resort, May 2011**

The Decision Support Tool (DST) training went ahead in Mission Beach on the 12-13 May 2011 after three months of working closely with Brisbane consultants Buckley Vann and the FNQ Project Reference Group.

The training was attended by more than 15 representatives from Local Government (Cook, Cassowary Coast and Tablelands), State Government (DLGP and DERM), private consultants (RPS which is currently preparing the Wujal Wujal Planning Scheme) and the regional NRM group, Terrain NRM.

The focus of the training was to guide planners on how to better incorporate NRM plan targets into the planning schemes, and ultimately, support a more collaborative approach across the region. With all these stakeholders in the room, it was a great opportunity to understand the different levels of involvement in implementing NRM and how we can better support in each other in doing this. It was also a chance to put everyone on a level playing field in terms of appreciating and understanding the different legislative and non-legislative frameworks in which we operate.

The training involved a large component of practical application of the DST, including how to incorporate specific targets from the NRM plan into different parts of the planning scheme framework. The consultants made a conscious effort to ensure the training was as relevant as possible, with the new Queensland Planning Provisions format at the centre of the practical application.

By holding the training in Mission Beach we were able to get out and see first hand examples of where development and NRM pressures are coming face-to-face. A site visit of "Lot 66", dubbed by locals as "Garrett's Corridor" (after the former Minister for Environment Peter Garrett used the EPBC Act to reject a development application for this site), presented a real life example of where key cassowary habitat is under threat from urban development. Aletta Nugent, Cassowary Coast Regional Councils' Strategic Planner, and Tony O'Malley, Terrain NRMs' Mission Beach Local Area Planner, presented viewpoints from the different perspectives on how this parcel could be best managed. It was a great example of understanding competing interests and how planners might be better able to incorporate these concerns in the decision making process.

Feedback so far has indicated the training was an eye-opener to the challenges faced by local government in trying to develop their new planning schemes. This is an issue which is not necessarily specific to incorporating NRM into the schemes, but more about the complexity of the task as a whole. Other responses supported the training as a great networking opportunity.

A big thank you goes out to LGAQ for funding this project and choosing Far North Queensland as the pilot. Through our experience, the DST and training program can now be refined to a top class product which can be rolled out across the state.



DST training at the Mission Beach Resort

John Harrison from Cook Shire Council and Aletta Nugent from Cassowary Coast Regional Council



Site visit to "Garrett's Corridor"

REGIONAL PROCUREMENT

Regional Procurement Coordinator, Steven Cosatto...

Update

Recent meetings with Cassowary Coast, Tablelands and Cairns Regional Council personnel have indicated an opportunity to establish a Procurement Tab on the FNQROC website, which when linked to individual councils could be utilised for tendering purposes, hosting a procurement forum, document sharing, numerous registers such as contracts over \$100,000, awarded contracts, supplier registers and a non-conformance register. A gap analysis will be researched and presented for discussion at the next FNQROC Procurement Group meeting which will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2011 at Cairns Regional Council.

I have been continuing research into quantities, suppliers, market analysis and required documentation/standards of current projects which now include liquid sodium hypochloride, liquid alum, fluoride, water testing and herbicides.

The current draft document out for review with Procurement Group members is a Suppliers Management Checklist which refers to required licensing, standards, safety, quality, environment and sustainability and can be utilised for tendering purposes or for general information gathering with contractors and/or consultants.

We have engaged MacDonnells Solicitors to provide advice with regards to the Draft Tender and Contract document and the appropriate administration of contracts undertaken regionally. MacDonnells solicitors will also present at the next Procurement Group meeting outlining some of their experiences where contracts have gone wrong and what elements within a contract have saved a council.

Regional Procurement Seminar

Local Buy will host a one-day Regional Procurement Seminar at the Rockhampton Leagues Club on Thursday 20 October 2011 from 9.30 to 4pm.

Topics will include; centralised purchasing, legal issues, contracts and probity including case studies and time for networking.

Any suggestions are most welcome. Please feel free to contact Local Buy's Communications Coordinator, Marie McGrane on 07 3000 2272 or email mmcgrane@localbuy.net.au.

REGIONAL ROAD GROUP

Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator, Gerard Read...

Regional Road Group

The Technical Committee met in Cairns on 20 May 2011.

Works Program

The new 2011/12 to 2015/16 works program was adopted at the FNQ Regional Road Group meeting on 11 April 2011.

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

Cape Tribulation - Bloomfield Link

Following submission of the Statement of Intent, Link Studies for the Cairns RC and Cook SC sections, and concept drawing for the Woobadda Creek culvert project, representatives from FNQRRG met with WTMA on Monday 30 May 2011 to discuss environmental considerations for future works on the link, and in particular the Woobadda Creek project. We are awaiting follow up correspondence from WTMA to clarify exactly what process and activities need to be further undertaken. There is no guarantee the Woobadda Creek project will be approved by WTMA at this stage.

Integrated Regional Transport Planning Studies

Jennifer Damon, Senior Advisor (Regional Partnerships Team) gave a presentation at the last RRG and Technical Committee meetings on the Integrated Regional Transport Planning Studies (including freight) being undertaken by TMR Far North.

TMR Bulk and Bagged Cement – SOA

TMR have in place a Standing Offer Arrangement for the Supply and Delivery of Bulk and Bagged Cement. The arrangement is in place for 3 years from 1 December 2010 to 30

November 2013 with two x 12 month extension options. There are three suppliers involved – Cement Australia, Sunstate Cement, Wagners Cement. The arrangement is available for use by Councils and can be accessed through LGOnline.

Next Meetings

Technical Committee – 10am - Friday 15 April 2011, Board Room, Tablelands Regional Council, Atherton

RRG – 1.30pm after the FNQROC Board Meeting - Monday 6 June 2011, Cooktown Community Events Centre, Cooktown

Asset Management Group

The Asset Management Group meeting was held on 19 May 2011 in Cairns.

Asset Management Plans

All Councils appear to be progressing well with the development of these plans and no problems are envisaged meeting the 30 September 2011 deadline. DLGP have advised there will be no deadline for development of “advanced” plans and that advancement will be at a pace commensurate with Councils capabilities and capacities. The revised “Asset Management Advancement Program” has not been released to date by DLGP.

Unit Rates & Methodologies

Development of the unit rate database and calculation methodology framework is in progress.

Next Meeting

The next Asset Management Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 July 2011 at 10am in the Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns.

TROPICAL INNOVATION AWARDS

FNQROC is a major supporter of the Tropical Innovation Awards which aims to firmly establish the north as a centre for tropical expertise and ensure that the region's creativity remains on the leading edge in our fast changing world. Applications are now welcomed for this year's Tropical Innovation Awards. Applications close on 30 June 2011. A free workshop to assist with making a short presentation to the judges (necessary for applicants) has been scheduled as follows:

Thursday 16 June, 9am-2pm @ Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council, 119-145 Spence St, Cairns

As part of the 2011 TIA awards process, entrants will be required to make a short presentation to the judges. To give everyone equal footing this three hour workshop, by professional presenter Andrew Griffiths, will give entrants many simple and practical tips that will help them to develop a quality presentation and deliver it to the judges with real impact.

The 2011 Awards have been extended to include participants from all Tropical Zone Countries, which will provide an opportunity for applicants to gain international exposure and support.

An evening event is to be held on 12 August 2011 at the Cairns Convention Centre and will include a number of invitees including judging panel, industry experts, venture capitalists, mentors, associated organisations, government officials and the public to network and celebrate the winning inventions and/or innovations. The awards provide an opportunity for applicants to link with professional businesses and State and Federal funded programs.

Secondary school students are also encouraged to apply via the Emerging Innovation section which suits applicants who are in the early stages of development (patented or not patented). The applicant is required to provide a business plan or business case highlighting the viability of their invention/innovation.

More details can be found on www.tropicalinnovationawards.com.

DATE CLAIMERS 2011

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

| FNQROC | FNQRRG |
|---|---|
| Monday 6 June 2011, Cook Shire Council, Cooktown – 10am | Monday 6 June 2011, Cook Shire Council, Cooktown – 1.30pm |
| Monday 8 August 2011, Cairns Local Disaster Coordination Centre, Woree – 10am | Monday 8 August 2011, Cairns Local Disaster Coordination Centre, Woree – 1.30pm |
| 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).

Friday 15 July 2011, Tablelands Regional Council, Atherton, 10am

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

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 15 June 2011 – Cairns | Wednesday 21 September 2011 – venue tba |
| Wednesday 7 December 2011 – venue tba | |

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

Friday 26 August 2011 - Cairns Regional Council

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

Thursday 14 July 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

FNQROC Sustainability Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Daniela Gambotto)

Friday 3 June 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

Friday 2 September 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

Friday 2 December 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

FNQROC Planning Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Daniela Gambotto)

Friday 17 June 2011 - Cairns

Friday 19 August 2011 - Cairns

Friday 7 October 2011 – Cairns

Friday 16 December 2011 – Cairns

FNQROC Local Laws Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Darlene Irvine).

Thursday 30 June 2001 – Cairns

FNQROC CONTACT DETAILS

| Position | Name | Phone | Email |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--|
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| Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator | Gerard Read | 0407 735 304 | g.read@ Cairns.qld.gov.au |
| Regional Planning & Sustainability Coordinator | Daniela Gambotto | 07 4044 3376 | d.gambotto@ Cairns.qld.gov.au |
| Regional Procurement Coordinator | Steven Cosatto | 07 4044 3048 | s.cosatto@ Cairns.qld.gov.au |
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