



AHEAD IN 2011...

Executive Officer, Darlene Irvine...

When I first drafted my piece for this newsletter it started with "I hope our first newsletter for 2011 finds you all well and rested – especially for those who spent Christmas morning in disaster mode with our first cyclone for the season!" It now starts "I hope this first newsletter finds you all safe after the effects of Cyclone Yasi."

I made two personal resolutions for FNQROC in 2011.

The **first** is that I will not make any of the technical groups meet or workshop afterhours at any conference!

The **second** and more important is I would like to see many of our projects consolidated and completed. We have a lot on the go at the moment and I think it is time to take stock of these.

In cleaning out my closet of uncompleted activities I found a few bits of information I thought relevant to share with you from the LGMA annual conference late last year:

1. The Ombudsman's Annual Report quoted 23% of complaints (and the highest amount of complaints) relate to the enforcement of local laws.
2. From King and Co – Council policies are effectively part of an employee contract of employment and employees could sue on the basis of these policies (promises) not being actioned/followed (this especially relates to workplace health and safety).
3. If we keep using the same strategies, will we keep getting the same results?

REGIONAL PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR

The position of Regional Procurement Coordinator has finally been filled! Steve Cosatto will join FNQROC on Monday 14 February 2011.

Steve joins us from Cairns Regional Council's Martyn Street depot where he is a Quality Assurance Technical Officer. It is envisaged his first of week will involve finding his feet within FNQROC and in his second week he will be involved in a technical meeting with those involved with water chemical, bitumen and reseal purchasing. He will also make his way around each of the councils to introduce himself in person.

Procurement meeting dates have been set as follows: Wednesday 30 March 2011, Wednesday 8 June 2011, Wednesday 21 September 2011 and Wednesday 7 December 2011 – all at Cairns Regional Council at this stage.

2011 FNQROC & FNQRRG MEETINGS

Dates have been set for the FNQROC and FNQRRG board meetings for 2011. In order to share the meeting venues between our member councils, next year's meetings will be split between Cairns, Cooktown and Innisfail. One of the Cairns meetings will take place at the Cairns Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Woree, which has been a hive of activity of late. Dates are listed at the end of the newsletter. All meetings are open and agendas and minutes are posted on our website two weeks prior/post meeting.

Regional Planning & Sustainability Coordinator, Daniela Gambotto...

NRM Decision Support Tool and Training

The long-awaited Natural Resource Management (NRM) Decision Support Tool and Training program kicks off next month! LGAQ approached FNQROC last year to undertake this project and the conditions are finally right for us to make it happen. It aims to give Local Government planners the skills to integrate regional NRM plan objectives into their planning schemes. The Tool itself is a step-by-step guide for planners to use when preparing planning schemes. It will be accompanied by a two-day training course where planners will be able to run through scenarios and examples of how to make sure NRM is included as a key component of their planning schemes.

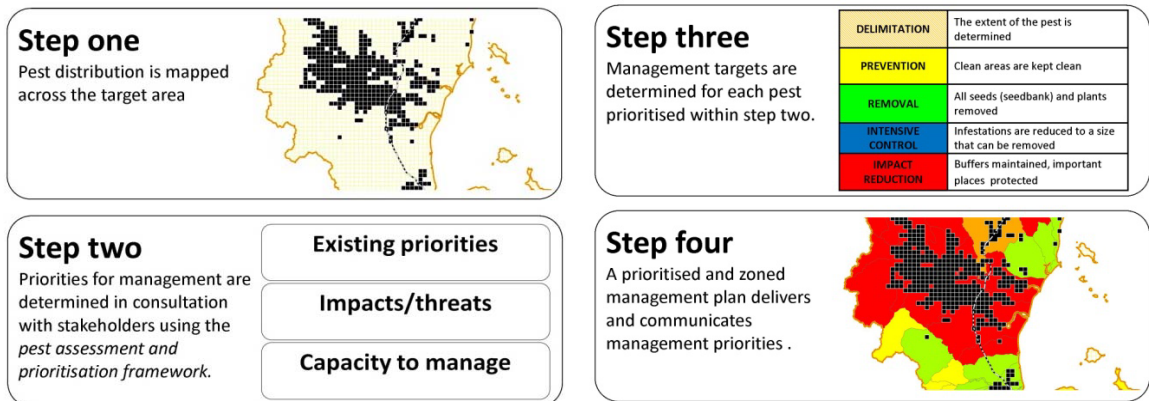
The Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) has recently released a draft User Guide for the preparation of the Strategic Framework component of new Planning Schemes under the Sustainability Planning Act (SPA). Gary White, the Queensland Government Planner, was in Cairns recently promoting the document. Gary explained in detail how new schemes, prepared under SPA, require a greater emphasis on setting strategic vision for a local government area than was previously required under IPA. Whilst we recognise the significance of the strategic framework, the devil is in the detail, and the importance of codes and overlays cannot be underestimated. FNQROC will make a submission on the draft User Guide and I will continue to support the Local Government planners as they embark on preparing the strategic framework of their new schemes.

Regional Natural Asset Management Coordinator, Travis Sydes...

Pest Management Planning Update

The region is benefitting from ongoing collaboration across councils in the development of several frameworks to assist in the development and delivery of pest management planning. Last year saw the region-wide adoption and release of the *Pest Assessment and Prioritisation Framework*. The framework was developed by pest management staff in Cairns Regional Council (see August 2010 FNQROC newsletter) and further tuned across the region prior to its facilitation in planning with Cassowary Coast, Tablelands and Hinchinbrook.

In a further refinement of the FNQ Regional Pest Management Strategy the framework has been combined with a management zoning method and the *Regional Pest Mapping Project* (FNQROC, Terrain NRM, CSIRO) to create a regional guideline for the development of zoned and prioritised Pest Management Plans. The resulting plans will better reflect the timeframes and scales required to manage pests and weeds and much improved goal setting and prioritisation. Some of the immediate benefits will be colour-coded maps which communicate the distribution, management effort and focus for priority pests across each Local Government area.



Work flow from the Regional Pest Management Strategy for the development of a zoned and prioritised Pest Management Plan. The framework will bring new opportunities to plan, monitor progress and engage the community in pest management issues.

2011 a big year for biodiversity in FNQ

Several key projects will get underway across the region and within individual Councils over the course of 2011 with what is set to be a big year for Local Government adoption and leadership in biodiversity and conservation planning. Ongoing regional projects in natural asset management and biodiversity planning are aligning with the regions existing systems and expertise in revegetation and invasive species management. This has been further facilitated by internal alignments and collaboration between regional groups representing our interests in natural assets, planning and asset management. Many of the foundations are laid and this year will be one of seeing these initiatives through to adoption.

DATE CLAIMERS 2011

Not all FNQROC groups have set their 2011 meeting dates as yet.

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

FNQROC	FNQRRG
Monday 14 February 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 10am	Monday 14 February 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 1.30pm
Monday 11 April 2011, Cook Shire Council, Cooktown – 10am	Monday 11 April 2011, Cook Shire Council, Cooktown – 1.30pm
Monday 6 June 2011, Cairns Local Disaster Coordination Centre, Woree – 10am	Monday 6 June 2011, Cairns Local Disaster Coordination Centre, Woree – 1.30pm
Monday 8 August 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 10am	Monday 8 August 2011, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns – 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).

Wednesday 16 February 2011 – Cairns

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

Wednesday 30 March 2011 - Cairns Regional Council

Wednesday 8 June 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

Wednesday 21 September 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

Wednesday 7 December 2011 – Cairns Regional Council

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

Friday 25 February 2011 - Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Friday 27 May 2011 - Cook Shire Council

Friday 26 August 2011 - Cairns Regional Council

Friday 25 November 2011 - Tablelands Regional Council

FNQROC Community Plan Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Darlene Irvine).
Thursday 10 March 2011 - Cairns Regional Council

FNQROC Sustainability Group Meetings (FNQROC Organiser: Daniela Gambotto)
Friday 4 March 2011 – Cairns Regional Council
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 25 February 2011 – Cairns Regional Council
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 April 2011 (LGAQ Decision Support Tool Training) – Cairns
Friday 17 June 2011 - Cairns
Friday 19 August 2011 - Cairns
Friday 7 October 2011 – Cairns
Friday 16 December 2011 – Cairns

FNQROC CONTACT DETAILS

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ Your heart beats about 101,000 times a day.
- ❖ In medieval times, left-handed people could not become knights because it was thought that they were descendants of the devil.
- ❖ The first documented lighthouse was the Lighthouse of Alexandria, built in 200 BC on the island of Pharos by the Egyptians.