

Network Notes

26 OCTOBER 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Chairman

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Update from the Chairman

Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008 Announcement

Dear Natural Resource Managers

It is with great pleasure that I announce the successful projects to be offered funding from the NRMB's Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008. It has been a very competitive funding round, and the standard of applications was very high.

The NRMB entered into a two-stage assessment process, comprising both technical and strategic assessment of projects, and is now confident that a whole new suite of projects aiming for the achievement of the Management Action Targets in the Territory's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, is about to commence.

Congratulations to the successful organisations.

Regards
Sue van-Cuylenburg
Chairman, NRMB (NT) Inc

Successful Projects

Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008

Arid			
Program	Project #	Project Title	Proponent
003	2007/080	Coordination of natural resource management through the Alice Springs Land for Wildlife scheme	Low Ecological Service P/L
003	2007/087	Supporting CLMA to improve regional capacity in the Central Australian Pastoral Industry	CLMA
003	2007/088	Building community capacity to deal with resource management issues on the Barkley Tablelands	Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association Inc
003	2007/102	Building capacity to implement NRM initiatives in the Southern Tanami	CLC
003	2007/123	Strengthening landcare group coordination and capacity in the Alice Springs area	GANT
003	2007/138	NRM capacity building on indigenous homelands of the Barkly region	Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
005	2007/096	Developing a Consultative Structure for Representation of Aboriginal Land Interests in Regional Fire Planning (Part A); Peterman Rangers Fire Management Plan (Part B)	CLC
006	2007/095	Building on Best Practice Community Fire Management on Aboriginal Lands in Arid NT	CLC
008	2007/122	Protecting central Australian rockholes and wetlands from feral herbivores	GANT
011	2007/131	Monitoring and onground management of threatened arid plants	NRETA
011	2007/132	Monitoring and survey of threatened small mammals in arid NT	NRETA
012	2007/076	Guidelines for two rotational grazing strategies for improved land condition and sustainability	DPIFM
012	2007/121	Best Practice Guidelines for grazing in wetlands, Central Australia	GANT
013	2007/086	Information = Power: Value chain walk-through to empower Indigenous desert business	Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre
017	2005/052	Land and Learning - focus on wetlands, weeds and feral animals	Tangentyere Council
017	2007/106	NRM capacity building with Aboriginal traditional owners in Central Australia	CLC
021	2007/119	Anmatjere Water project: Developing capacity for water management	GANT

Successful Projects

Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008

Savanna

Program	Project #	Project Title	Proponent
003	2007/068	Yugul Mangi Rangers coordination - building a stronger group	Yugul Mangi Community Government Council
003	2007/069	Supporting best practice natural resource management in the Roper River Catchment	Roper River Landcare Group Inc
003	2007/075	Supporting community natural resource management in the VRD	VRDCA
003	2007/089	Coordinating Community NRM for the Katherine River Sub-catchment	Katherine Landcare Group Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
003	2007/113	Jawoyn NRM Coordination	
003	2007/145	Supporting Wagiman-Guwardagun Rangers in management of their Traditional lands	Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association
003	2007/147	Support Community Natural Resource Management in the Lower Daly Region	Wangamaty (Lower Daly) Landcare Group Inc
006	2007/146	Recording, developing and understanding fire management within Upper Daly River	Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association
007	2007/074	Strategic Flora River Catchment planning for Bellyache Bush Management	VRDCA
008	2007/053	Taking a strategic approach to feral animal removals in Katherine	NRETA
008	2007/072	Managing priority weeds in key areas of the Roper Catchment - Continuation	Roper River Landcare Group Inc
008	2007/073	Priority management of Bellyache bush in the Flora River Catchment	VRDCA
008	2007/148	Best practice strategic weed management in the Lower Daly	Wangamaty (Lower Daly) Landcare Group Inc
011	2007/103	Purple-crowned Fairy-wren habitat protection and best management practice	VRDCA
012	2007/078	Grazing for Biodiversity: best approaches to biointense sites and grazing	Roper River Landcare Group Inc
013	2007/067	Yugul Mangi Rangers, funding land management through enterprise development	Yugul Mangi Community Government Council
017	2007/117	Ngaliwurru wuli and Mulayea Rangers All-way Landcare	Timber Creek Community Government Council

Successful Projects

Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008

Top End

Program	Project #	Project Title	Proponent
003	2007/055	Group Coordination of natural resource management in the Arafura Swamp	Murwangi Community Aboriginal Corporation
003	2007/066	Tiwi Islands natural resource management coordination	Tiwi Land Council
003	2007/070	Coordinating capacity building for Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area Management	Warddeken Land Management Limited
003	2007/092	NT Coastcare Co-ordination	NRETA
003	2007/127	NRM coordination in the Finnis River and Adelaide River catchments	GANT
005	2007/126	Regional fire planning in the Greater Darwin district	GANT
007	2007/057	Laynhapuy IPA Wetlands Feral Pig Management - Survey and Management Planning	Laynhapuy Homelands Association Inc
007	2007/077	Toward the strategic control of Tropical Invasive Grasses in Central and Western Arnhem Land.	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
008	2007/054	Protection of the Arafura Swamp from priority invasive species	Murwangi Community Aboriginal Corporation
008	2007/058	Laynhapuy IPA Wetlands Feral Pig Management - Control Measures	Laynhapuy Homelands Association Inc
008	2007/064	Tiwi Islands Pest and Weed Management	Tiwi Land Council
008	2007/085	Enhancing biocontrol of Mimosa in the Daly, Moyle and Docherty Catchments	NRETA
008	2007/101	Eradication of African big headed ant from Dhimurru IPA	Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation/CSIRO
011	2007/082	Continuing conservation of the Golden Bandicoot	NRETA
011	2007/134	Conservation Assessment of Priority Non-Fish Marine Threatened Species in the NT	NRETA
011	2007/137	Djelk Collaborative Marine Turtle Monitoring Program	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
013	2007/140	Creating sustainable livelihoods on Country from birdwatching tourism	Birds Australia
017	2007/124	Training to build NRM capacity in Indigenous Communities	GANT
019	2007/105	Djelk Sea Country and MPA Planning	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
019	2007/135	Identifying Potential Sites for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the NT	NRETA
020	2007/065	Tiwi Coastal Management	Tiwi Land Council
020	2007/094	Indigenous Coastal Support and Capacity Building	NRETA
020	2007/104	Djelk Marine Management	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

Successful Projects

Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2008

Territory			
Program	Project #	Project Title	Proponent
004	2007/059	Enhancing fire mapping products for the NT community	Bushfires NT
007	2007/060	Detecting and monitoring the incursion and spread of invasive ants in the Northern Territory	NRETA
011	2007/083	Conservation management of the Northern Territory's 31 threatened land snail species	NRETA
012	2007/079	Implementing best practice land management in NT Agriculture	Northern Territory Horticultural Association
012	2007/144	Extending information to management: Landscape stratification and carrying capacity	NRETA
015	2007/098	Scenario planning for climate change in tropical landscapes	Charles Darwin University
016	2007/099	Integrated scenario planning across shared landscapes: A territory-wide approach	Charles Darwin University

General News

Natural Resource Management Board Announcement

The Natural Resource Management Board (NRMB) has announced two new members, and farewelled retiring Vice Chairman Jim Forwood AM.

Returning Chair Sue van Cuylenburg said she was honoured to be reappointed as Chairperson to the board.

“When I was first appointed Chair in November 2005 I was looking forward to the challenge of the role, and over the past two years my enthusiasm and passion for the natural resources we have in the Territory has grown with the job”.

NRMB was established to implement the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan and Regional Investment Strategy (RIS), under the framework agreed between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth Government's.

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General News

Continued from page 5

Natural Resource Management Board Announcement

The board is responsible for identifying and integrating opportunities and priorities for the management of the natural resources of the Northern Territory, promoting and nurturing partnerships.

The board has already allocated nearly \$23m of Australian and Northern Territory Government funds for natural resource management, and is currently considering the allocation of a further \$7m.

NRMB Chair Sue van Cuylenburg said the new members, Georgia Underwood and Joe Morrison, are welcome additions and their range of experience will be of benefit to natural resource management in the Territory.

“Georgia Underwood, who has a degree in Science and Commerce, is a third generation pastoralist from the Katherine region and has vast experience in operating cattle stations,” Ms van Cuylenburg said.

“Joe Morrison has a Bachelor of Land Management and over a decade of experience working with remote Indigenous groups across the Top End in developing community based natural resource programs.

“Both Georgia and Joe are a valuable addition to the knowledge and skills of the Natural Resource Management Board.”

The NRMB consists of six Directors, including a Chair person and a Northern Territory Government representative.

Membership is based on skills and knowledge to support best practice governance, business, legal and contractual issues as well as the achievement of natural resource management and conservation outcomes.

Ms van Cuylenburg also wanted to take the opportunity to thank outgoing member Jim Forwood for his service to the board. “Jim is a professional rural consultant and manager and has done an outstanding job over the past two years in his role as Vice chairman and we wish him every future success,” Ms van Cuylenburg said.

“In the two years since we were established the NRMB has achieved a great deal by way of supporting the capacity of Indigenous, pastoral and other natural resource managers to protect their land, water and biodiversity resources”.

Other board members include Greening Australia NT Chief Executive Officer Mike Clark, Indigenous Land Management expert David Alexander, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation General Manager Ian Munro and Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Natural Systems Senior Director John Gilmour.

For further information go to <http://www.nrmbnt.org.au>

General News

NEW CHANCE TO CREATE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

New research from The Australian National University shows that the Federal Government has a once-in-generation opportunity to create Indigenous employment in natural resource management and maintain the natural values of the largest and most intact tropical savanna in the world.

Professor Jon Altman, Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), recently released a research paper "The environmental significance of the Indigenous estate: Natural resource management as economic development in remote Australia" co-authored with colleagues Geoff Buchanan and Libby Larsen. The research demonstrates that some of Australia's most environmentally intact lands are owned by Indigenous people. The authors argue that robust investment in Indigenous management of the Indigenous estate in Northern Australia could have the dual benefit of providing employment and sustaining the environment.

"This is a chance for government to invest in the Indigenous estate to bring about significant change in Indigenous socio-economic status. At the moment there are a few schemes like the Federal Government's new Working on Country program that are looking to invest in natural resource management. Such investments could be increased by a factor of 25 or 50 times to ensure sustainable environmental benefits and Indigenous poverty reduction."

Professor Altman's research shows that Indigenous people currently own 20 per cent of Australia, about 1.5 million square kilometres, including some of the nation's most environmentally intact and biodiverse ecological zones and river catchments. Yet national investment in managing these regions is minimal.

Most natural resource management work on the Indigenous estate has been funded by the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme that is in the process of being dismantled as part of the Federal Government's 'intervention' in the Northern Territory. CDEP workers and organisations are fundamental to numerous 'Caring for Country' projects and for successful management of Indigenous Protected Areas.

Professor Altman warns that the loss of the scheme will undermine existing programs that are operating very effectively. He calls for the federal government and opposition to urgently address this issue during the forthcoming federal election campaign.

"Current employment opportunities in natural and cultural resource management on the Indigenous estate will disappear with the abolition of CDEP – meaning that both the environment and Indigenous people will be losers with great social, economic and environmental costs to the nation. What is needed is a significant and immediate expansion of the Working on Country program to employ all current CDEP participants who seek employment in natural resource management.

"At a time when the country has unprecedented financial surpluses and there are concerns associated with the inevitable impacts of climate change and global warming, we should invest in addressing Indigenous poverty by providing sustainable employment in natural resource management for local, regional, national and, ultimately, global benefit."

The report can be accessed at <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/data/DP286final.pdf>

For further information: Professor Jon Altman 06125 2858 or 0419 223 757

General News

Round 3 Community Water Grants Announced...

Applicant	Project Title	Approved Funding (exl GST)
J Tapp & J M Beint	King River Riparian Fencing	\$45,455
Palmerston Rural Group School Management Council Inc	Flush & Spray To Save	\$21,000
Alawa Aboriginal Corporation	Minyerri Water Saving Project No1	\$45,455
Coomalie Community Government Council	Batchelor Community Swimming Pool Water Conservation Project	\$12,900
Victoria River District Conservation Association Inc	Improving River Health through Stock Exclusion	\$33,182
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College	Bath St Plumbing	\$7,000
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College	Traeger Ave Campus, Plumbing and tanks	\$32,000
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College	Sadadeen Campus Plumbing	\$8,909
Charles Darwin University	Recycled water for sports/outdoor areas in Santa Teresa community	\$45,455
The Douglas Daly Community Development Association Incorporated	Rainwater tank and stand for potable and indoor water use	\$8,445
Walangeri Ngumpinku Community Government Council	Rain water tanks to ease ground water usage	\$45,240
Walangeri Ngumpinku Community Government Council	Rain water tanks	\$45,240
Walangeri Ngumpinku Community Government Council	Tank water suppl	\$29,091
Tiwi Land Council Incorporated	Promoting domestic water use efficiency at Nguiu community Bathurst Island	\$45,455
Beatrice Hill Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Inc.	Beatrice Hill wise water users	\$6,773
Wanguri Primary School Council	Water Sustainable Urban Primary School	\$45,455
Darwin Golf Club Inc	Upgrade to Irrigation Control System to save water- Darwin Golf Course	\$44,182
Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association	Improving water quality in the Upper Daly River region	\$45,432
Ltyentye Apurte Community Government Council	Ltyentye Apurte Water Saving Pool Project	\$29,091
Tangentyere Council Inc	Hidden Valley Community Centre Water Tank	\$16,545
Buddhist Society of the Nt Inc	Water collection & garden reticulation for Buddhist Society NT	\$26,800
Dundee Progress Association Incorporated	Single watering point for the Dundee Beach community	\$50,000
Katherine Town Council	Saving 3744000 litres of water at the Katherine Showgrounds	\$45,455
Greening Australia (Nt) Ltd	Showcase riparian protection in upper Finnis River	\$12,364
Casuarina Senior College Council Inc	Installation of an automated sub-terrain irrigation system at the College	\$45,455

For further information regarding Community Water Grants go to:

<http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/index.html>.

General News

Round 10 Coastal Envirofund Projects Announced...

Applicant	Project Title	Trust funding (exc. GST)
Thamarrurr Community Government Council	Protection and Monitoring of Turtles in the Thamarrurr Region This project will implement a turtle monitoring program and conduct surveys in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Region	\$42,852
Australian Trust For Conservation Volunteers	Sea Turtle Protection in Arnhem Land This project will undertake marine debris surveys and collection at key sea turtle nesting locations in Arnhem Land, and scientifically monitor a significant nesting population of green sea turtles.	\$24,036
Tiwi Land Council Incorporated	Stabilised Beach Access and Dune Restoration Pitjimirra Melville Island This project aims to restore the integrity of sand dunes and manage threatened processes by rehabilitating and protecting coastal dunes from erosive processes.	\$14,586
Reuben Cooper	Wilgi Outstation Coastal Erosion Management This project will address cliff-top erosion at Wilgi Outstation. Activities to be undertaken include repairing the cliff edge gully with geotextile and erosion control banks, and constructing a new access and viewing platform to replace an existing unstable platform	\$12,091
Khaki Marrala	Wilyi (Mount Norris Bay) Land and Sea Management Documentation Project This project will pass on unique local knowledge held by Khaki Marrala; traditional owners of the Mountnorris Bay Area (Wilyi) of the Murran Estate; landowners of the Cobourg Region; regarding the management of land and sea resources within our country.	\$45,000

For further information regarding Envirofund go to: <http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund>

General News

2007 NORTHERN TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARD WINNERS



The 2007 Northern Territory Landcare Australian Award winners were announced on Friday night at a ceremony at Parliament House.

Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Vice Chairman Mr Jim Forwood said the awards night was a great success and celebrated the incredible achievements of land care in the Northern Territory.

“The Landcare Australia Awards are a great chance for the Northern Territory land care community to reward the volunteers for their ongoing efforts in protecting our precious natural resources,” Mr Forwood said.

“For every winner announced, there are hundreds of others involved in land care that are making incredible inroads into solving some of the nation’s land and water degradation issues. “It’s always valuable for the individuals and groups that are involved in land care in the Northern Territory to come together and see first hand what their peers have achieved.”

Landcare Australia called for entries from inspiring individuals, community groups and networks across 10 categories from the Australian Government Coastcare Award to the Individual Landcarer Award.

Winners from each category in the 2007 Territory Landcare Awards automatically go on to become finalists in the 2008 National Landcare Awards to be held at Parliament House in Canberra.

The 2007 Northern Territory Landcare Award winners included:

Westpac Landcare Education Award – Borroloola Community Education Centre

Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award – Roper River Landcare Group

Alcan Landcare Indigenous Award – Tiwi Land Council

Australian Government Coastcare Award – North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) for their Dugong and Marine Turtle Project

Landcare CarbonSMART Nature Conservation Award – National Trust Landcare

National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award – Ted Johansen

Bushfires NT Fire Management Award – Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation

More than 100 guests attended the Awards ceremony and Mr Forwood said it was inspiring to see what can be accomplished with hard work and determination.

For further information on the Landcare Australia Awards go to <http://www.landcareonline.com>

General News

EMS Pathways to Sustainable Agriculture – AUSVEG in the NT

In February this year the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, announced national funding of \$3.9 million nationally to establish partnerships between primary industries and NRM regions, aimed at increasing the adoption of profitable and sustainable farming practices and enhance environmental outcomes.

AUSVEG, as the national peak industry body representing vegetable and potato growers, was successful in gaining funds for the project “***Building a cooperative partnership between Regional NRM bodies and the Vegetable Industry – a national approach***”. The project will focus on five of 56 regions around Australia, of which one is the NT!

The project recognises that there are currently few linkages or partnerships between the Vegetable Industry and Regional NRM bodies. One of the main objectives of the project in the NT will be to establish a working partnership between the NRM Board (NT) and vegetable growers to facilitate adoption and implementation of the *EnviroVeg* Environmental Management System (EMS) program.

By aligning regional NRM targets from the NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and existing industry environmental practices, it is hoped that the NRMB NT and the vegetable industry can move forward together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. EMS uptake will provide a mechanism for growers to demonstrate how responsible environmental management can positively link to improved business productivity, profitability and sustainability. It will encourage grower involvement in natural resource management (NRM) and Landcare.

Anticipated vegetable industry growth in the NT means that this project is exceptionally well timed. The NT Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines state that the NT produces many traditional vegetables and an increasing array of Asian vegetables. Excellent seasonal conditions ensure a wide variety of vegetables and herbs of premium quality produce can be grown throughout the year. Demand for Asian vegetables from export and domestic markets is increasing and the NT is uniquely situated to take advantage of this opportunity.

Importantly the project will acknowledge existing EMS and quality assurance programmes such as *FreshCare* and the Best Practice Sustainable Land Use Guidelines for the NT being developed by Tim West in conjunction with the National Landcare Programme and the NT Horticultural Association.

Alison Anderson, the Project Officer can be contacted via e-mail at aanderson@arris.com.au.

For more information on AUSVEG and Enviroveg please log on to <http://www.ausveg.com.au/enviroveg.cfm>.

General News

Telling others about your natural resource management work

Ecological Management & Restoration

You have been working for years to manage fire, improve soil health, rehabilitate a wetland, manage weeds, improve fish passage or enhance biodiversity. Or you may have just started a new and interesting project. In doing so you now have a lot of information that would help others rehabilitating and better managing ecosystems around the country. Why not share your experiences?

The journal ***Ecological Management & Restoration*** is calling for short project 'summaries' on restoration and improved management topics for the journal. The purpose of these small items is to notify EMR readers of new or completed on-ground projects and to provide contacts or leads to further information, theses or unpublished reports.

Project summaries are limited to 300 words and 5 key words. Wherever possible they must very briefly and succinctly state the project's name, aims, results to date, lessons learned and future directions of on-ground or research projects. Contact information must be provided at the end. Summaries are screened by the editorial board but are not peer reviewed.

This is a great chance to report your organisation's work and to establish contact with others working in your field.

If you have any questions or submissions, contact Tein McDonald at: teinm@ozemail.com.au

NTCA & NLP Sustainable Agriculture and Landcare Success Stories

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and NLP are currently developing 25 NT sustainable agriculture and landcare success stories. The stories will be published in various media, and will eventually be compiled into a stand-alone document. If you have current or past sustainable agriculture success stories you consider of interest to primary industry, landcare and NRM

Australian Landcare Council (ALC) Compendium of Landcare Achievement

The ALC is currently seeking Australian landcare stories and photographs to develop a 20 year celebration 'Landcare Making a Difference' coffee-table book. If you are interested in having your landcare stories/photographs considered for the book, submission guidelines can be obtained by contacting Scott Wyatt on 02 6295 8199 or landcare@secretariat.com.au Submissions close 31 October 2007

General News

NLP 2007 McKell Medal

The McKell Medal is an Australian award for excellence and achievement in natural resource management. The award is public recognition of outstanding achievement by an individual or people in partnerships, in changing community attitudes through promotion, education, research or development activities in natural resource management.

Kate Hadden, Secretary for Land and Resource Management with the Tiwi Land Council, won the 2006 McKell Medal for her achievements in natural resource management.

Further details and application forms can be located at 02 6272 4399 or <http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/mckell> Applications close 16 November 2007

Proposals invited to develop Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals

Professionals require skills to adapt to a changing climate and reduce the vulnerability of our settlements and infrastructure, natural ecosystems and water resources to the impacts of climate change.

Tertiary education / training institutions and professional associations providing professional development and accreditation programmes geared towards architects, engineers, planners and natural resource managers are encouraged to apply.

Professional associations, training organisations and tertiary education institutions or consortiums of such bodies can apply for grants of up to \$150,000 (GST exclusive).

Small grants are available to support activities to incorporate climate change adaptation into tertiary accreditation and professional development programmes.

Funding guidelines and the application form are available from www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts/about.html or by phone 02 6275 9035 or e-mail adaptation_projects@environment.gov.au

Applications must be received by COB 3 December 2007.

General News



Communiqué of the Australian Landcare Council Meeting 42, Kununurra, 9–10 October 2007

The Australian Landcare Council (ALC) held its last quarterly meeting for 2007 in Kununurra, Western Australia, on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 October 2007 (ALC 42).

The location of this meeting gave members the opportunity to discuss longer term implications for agricultural development in the country's tropical north, particularly in relation to water resources and irrigation systems. The meeting comprised a one-day formal meeting, followed by a one-day field trip to agricultural areas outside Kununurra, and to Lake Argyle.

In her report to Council at the formal meeting, the Chairman outlined the numerous events that she had attended in the previous two months since ALC 41, including the Queensland Landcare Conference and State Landcare Awards, the Eureka Awards, the Smart State Smart Women Awards, the Prime Minister's Science Prize dinner, and the Defeating the Weeds Menace website launch.

She had also attended the September NHT advisory committee meeting where the topic of ensuring a effective knowledge legacy was on the agenda, as well as the weeds issue and monitoring and evaluation. She had also met with the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

The Chairman reported that in her letter to Ministers following ALC 41, she had provided a synthesis of the observations and recommendations derived from the *Health of Landcare* workshop held at ALC 41. Her letter had also reiterated the importance of minimising delays in signing the NHT bilateral agreements so that there would not be any delays in funding for community landcare programmes in the transition from NHT2 to NHT3.

The meeting also included reports from Australian Government advisers, Mr Rod Shaw of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Ms Mary Colreavy of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW).

The DAFF report included updates on Australian Government natural resource management (NRM) programmes — NLP, NHT and NAP. The report noted that the Australian Government is in discussion with the NRM regions regarding contract management and funds delivery under the Community Support component of the future NLP.

Ms Colreavy (DEW) reported that good progress was being made with the NHT3 bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and the jurisdictions, with the expectation that all would be signed well in advance of the time when the current agreements expire (30 June 2008).

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General News

Communiqué of the Australian Landcare Council Meeting 42, Kununurra, 9–10 October 2007

Continued from page 14

Two presentations were given to the meeting: the first by Mr John Dunnicliff, a farmer and landcarer from the Northern Territory, who described pastoral development practices which included innovative stock watering practices on his properties near Elliot; and the second by Ms Elaine Gardiner, Chair, Ord Catchment Reference Group, and new WA community member on the ALC, who outlined the NRM challenges and investment priorities for the sub region.

For this meeting, the Chairman had asked members to consider how the Australian Government could optimise value-for-money in weeds policy and programme investment. Feedback received from members unanimously emphasised that fact that weeds continued to be a highly significant issue for land managers across Australia, the importance of which was largely under-recognised by many agencies. Members agreed that to successfully tackle the ever-growing problem of weed infestations, there was a need to further increase funding in this area, as well as increase the profile of the issue among the many stakeholders responsible for weeds management.

During the formal meeting, members also finalised a policy paper on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in NRM, and agreed that it was now ready for the Chairman to forward to Ministers. The paper supports the view that there should be a single, national agency with responsibility for M&E, and that there should be a simplified system which operated from the local level upwards and fed into a regional profile.

On Tuesday evening ALC members were joined by local landcarers, land managers and business people at a formal dinner which was addressed by local MLA, Ms Carol Martin, who linked the aims of the Council with those of the Indigenous inhabitants of the Kimberly region in their Caring for Country.

On Wednesday members undertook a field trip around the Ord Catchment where they had the opportunity to see first hand some of the NRM challenges and opportunities the region faces. The morning's activities focused on the Ord irrigation area, visiting the Tropical Forestry Services sandalwood plantation to observe a water reuse scheme designed to reduce irrigation runoff to the Dunham River.

Members then heard from Mr Paul Mock, a local landholder and irrigator, who described a project examining tree water use and on-farm water quality. Members then visited the Frank Wise Institute and Oasis Farms to discuss irrigation demonstration and trial sites. Delegates also examined local erosion problems and an erosion control demonstration site.

The trip continued up to Lake Argyle where a sediment survey project was discussed. Finally, members returned via boat on the Ord River to view weed control work and to discuss Lake Kununurra management challenges, such as the RAMSAR status of the lake and surrounds and its use as an irrigation reservoir.

The Council's next meeting will be held on 12–13 February 2008 in Canberra (ALC 43). The ALC will convene a one-day workshop addressing climate change and carbon trading at this meeting, and will also hold a joint session and dinner with the Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee. During the joint session, delegates will examine a range of topics of mutual interest to the two groups.

General News



The ConocoPhillips Environment Award

Pollution, climate changes, salinity and the destruction of forests affect us all. While many of us try to make a difference, it's Australia's young people who are actively using their initiative to stop destruction of our environment and help repair the damage. By developing programs and using new technology, it's these dedicated young individuals who are helping to educate us all. The Environment Award salutes those who are dedicated to saving planet Earth by nurturing and protecting our natural surroundings.

For further information call Teesha Couples on 8981 0244 or visit www.awardsaustralia.com

Conferences/Seminars

Central Australia Grazing Land Management Workshop

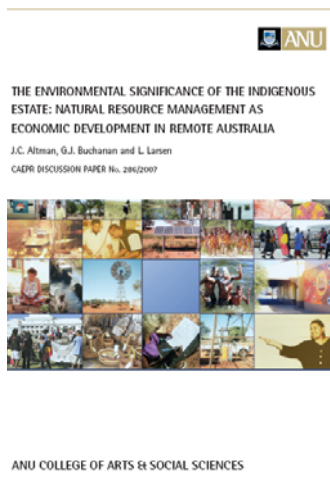
A Central Australia Grazing Land Management (CAGLM) workshop will be held in November to assist station managers to improve production and land condition in central Australia. Participants will acquire skills in assessing and monitoring land condition and determining land condition influence on beef production. The workshop will be conducted at Eraldunda Roadhouse from 11-14 November, and registration and further details can be obtained by contacting Ellena Hannah on 8952 5122

Publications / Websites

The Environmental Significance of the Indigenous Estate: NRM as Economic Development in Remote Australia.

Abstract <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/discussion.php>

This discussion paper explores the geography of the Indigenous estate, its environmental significance, and some of the innovative approaches adopted by Indigenous landholders to protect the natural and cultural values of their land. A number of maps are used to explore the environmental significance of the Indigenous estate. These maps indicate that the Indigenous estate—making up 20 per cent of the Australian land mass—covers vast areas of relatively intact land. The Indigenous estate contains some of the highest conservation priority lands in Australia. Emerging recognition of the environmental significance of the Indigenous estate is indicated by a number of Commonwealth-funded programs that represent a form of payment for environmental services (PES). Such programs provide important employment opportunities for Indigenous people living in some of the remotest parts of Australia, areas far from mainstream labour markets. Environmental service provision might provide alternate development opportunities on the Indigenous estate beyond standard private sector industries like mining, tourism and pastoralism, or publicly-funded provision of stan-



NRM toolbar

The NRM Toolbar is a set of online tools and databases that make it easier for NRM professionals to find and share information. The Toolbar is a toolbar add-on for use with your Internet browser. Once downloaded, the NRM Toolbar provides a single point of access to the NRM Search Engine, and the various databases and tools available on the NRM Toolbar website.

The NRM Search Engine allows Australian NRM professionals to conduct internet searches that search across hand-picked Australian NRM websites. The NRM Search Engine's advantage over generic search engines is that it only delivers results from high quality websites thereby increasing the relevance of search results.

The NRM Toolbar website also has a number of databases with information relevant to NRM professionals.

For more information go to: <http://www.nrmtoolbar.net.au>

Events



ToP FACILITATION METHODS:

Modules 1 to 3 - ToP Facilitative Leadership Program

12-14th Dec'07 and 6-8th Feb'08 in Sydney.

Technology of Participation offers a widely tested and proven set of tools and principles for maximizing the value of time spent in group processes, the value of results which are shared by all participants, and the enduring value of strengthened relationships and mutual learning.

The ToP Facilitative Leadership Program will develop the capacity of those whose role includes leading effective discussions, meetings and planning processes with industry, community or government participants and groups.

This intensive training program is delivered through a series of two three foundational day and three two-day transformational leadership modules, which are held approximately 10 weeks or more apart, supported by mentoring and application projects.

This provides firm grounding in the ToP Discussion Method and the ToP Workshop Method and their expansions and applications as they are adaptable to a broad range of contexts, and participants.

Each method is demonstrated and the underlying structure unpacked to deepen understanding. Participants have hands-on practice in tutorials and explore opportunities for application and further development of these methods in their everyday work environment.

This course will be led by experienced ToP practitioners - Tom Schwarz, Mark Butz and David Jago.

For more information about the ToP Facilitative Leadership Program, please go to:

http://markbutz.com/fbd/ToP_Facilitative_Leadership.html

For more information and fees please contact :

**Tom Schwarz of Kinnogene -
Email tom.schwarz@kinnogene.com.au
Phone: 02 9363 4963 or Mbl 0414 375 049.**

Jobs



PROJECT MANAGER

Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc, Palmerston, Northern Territory.

The Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc (the Territory's sole regional NRM body) is the foremost NRM organisation in the Territory.

P2 (\$59,333-\$71,933), Temporary Vacancy, ASAP – 31/12/08 (subject to availability of funds)

This is a readvertised position, and existing applicants will be considered and need not reapply.

Position is responsible to the Executive Officer of the Natural Resource Management Board (NT) Inc.

The primary purpose of the Project Manager position is to plan, implement, monitor and manage Natural Resource Management Board (NT) projects and investment funds.

Please refer to the contact details below for a copy of the Selection Criteria and Job Description recruitment@nt.gov.au www.nt.gov.au

Closing Date – 30 November 2007



PO Box 30
Palmerston
NT 0831
P: (08) 8999 4847
F: (08) 8999 4445
E: info@nrmbnt.org.au

This newsletter is prepared every three weeks by the Regional NRM facilitators in the Territory. It is prepared for distribution, in the first instance to the Local Level Facilitator network. The Local Level Facilitators can then forward this newsletter onto any groups, individuals that may benefit from the information contained within this publication. It is also hoped the newsletter will be a medium by which NRM information can be passed onto others in the network. SO if you have any concerns, articles, adverts or news that you wish to share, please send it into the Regional Facilitator who is listed on the newsletter roster.

This newsletter contains a number of web links to access further information on topics. If you have difficulty downloading information, please contact your Regional NRM Facilitator who can send/fax you a hardcopy.



Australian Government



Northern Territory Government

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

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