

Issue 4: September 2011



Cape York Healthy Country newsletter

Meet the Cape York NRM Team

You are invited to join your local members of the Board of Directors and Staff for lunch and personal introductions at a Cape York NRM Roadshow near you. This is an opportunity for you to tell us about

your local issues and give us a chance to chat to you about what support we can offer. Please RSVP for catering purposes to Janet on 1300 132 262 or jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au

PROGRAM

	DATE	PLACE	VENUE
12 Midday	Monday 26 September	Lakeland	Lakeland Town Hall
	Tuesday 27 September	Coen	Exchange Pub
	Friday 30 September	Weipa	Weipa Bowls Club
	Monday 3 October	Umagico	Umagico Budget Lodge
RSVP	Janet Greenwood T. 1300 132 262 E. jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au		

Our Mission: Helping people to work together to care for the natural environment and to promote the sustainable use of Cape York's natural resources.



Peta-Marie Standley joins the Cape York NRM team

CEO Bob Frazer recently welcomed Peta-Marie to the Cape York NRM team as Program Manager.

This appointment brings the organisation's staffing contingent to three. Peta-Marie's primary role is to assist with the development and delivery of Cape York's Regional Investment Strategy. In doing so she will be working closely with our major contracted service delivery organisations, including South Cape York Catchments, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program (Cook Shire), Cape York Sustainable Futures, and Aak Puul Ngantam (APN) to support and assist them in areas such as program logic, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and improvement. Peta-Marie has tertiary qualifications in environmental management and education.

She has worked on Cape York prior to commencing with Cape York NRM as a self employed consultant and research co-ordinator for the Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways Project.

Her work background includes project management and research roles with Terrain (the Wet Tropics Regional NRM body), and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation. Prior to that Peta-Marie worked for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as their Regional Extension officer for Cape York.



Cape York NRM showcased at the QLD Landcare Conference

THE 22nd annual Queensland Landcare Conference on September 20-23 will showcase the work of regional bodies and their support of the Landcare sector. The showcase will provide a snapshot of the work regional bodies are undertaking throughout Queensland. They're covering topics as broad as natural disaster response, compost tea, habitats in semi-rural areas, sustainable sugar, science from space saving soil, planning for good NRM and much more. Cape York NRM's CEO Bob Frazer's presentation will be 'Planning for natural resource management on the Cape'.

Registration for the 2011 Queensland Landcare Conference is still open. For more information contact Event Manager, Wombat Creative on 07 5538 5109 or visit <http://www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm>

Barra Beef and Bulldust Festival

WHERE the outback meets the sea, Karumba will be the centre stage of the inaugural Barra, Beef and Bulldust Expo held 4 - 6 November 2011 hosted by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group. The free regional Expo at Karumba will showcase projects, organisations, goods and services ranging from corporate and local businesses, to community organisations and health services, to agriculture, art and education.

Jam packed with activities and entertainment for all ages, including Troy Cassar Daley, Mary G, Shane Howard and David Hudson, junior landcare, art workshops, stalls and seminars on land management. Stallholder registrations and call for sponsors are now open.

You can view the flyer at <http://www.barrabeefandbulldust.com.au/images/stories/pdf/bbb-expo-leaflet-2011.pdf> or visit the event website for more information <http://www.barrabeefandbulldust.com.au/>



Opportunities for local Champions to drive regional growth

OPPORTUNITIES are available for community-minded people to join local Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees throughout Queensland. Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies Tim Mulherin is encouraging community champions with vision, leadership skills and community knowledge to sit on one of the RDA committees to not only represent the interests of their region but to also help drive Queensland's economic growth. RDA committees provide vital advice to government on regional Queensland's local priorities, engage with local communities and promote practical and attainable solutions.



"We are after people who want to contribute to this process, to make a difference and have a real say in the future of their region," said Mr Mulherin.

There are 12 RDA committees in Queensland, including Far North Queensland. For further information on RDA committees, visit <http://www.rda.gov.au/>

Indigenous Reference Groups for Wild River Basins

By Bob Frazer
Cape York NRM CEO

THIRTEEN river basins on the Cape York Peninsula have been identified as potential wild river areas and to date five of those have now been declared. Many people on Cape York struggle to understand what this government policy means for their country and for them socially and culturally. Some are also concerned that declaration of their country as part of a wild river basin will reduce their economic development opportunities in the future.

This uncertainty has caused conflict and divisions for some communities and families on Cape York.

Whilst Cape York NRM has made a conscious decision as an organisation not to develop a position on the issue, it has made every effort to provide its members with as much information as it can, from all sides of the debate.

The Queensland Government has listened to the concerns of people from Cape York and the Gulf and is now looking to establish an Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) for each of the remaining potential wild river areas on Cape York.

The role of each IRG will be to provide advice to the Minister for the Department of Environment and Resource Management, (DERM) relating to the wild rivers declaration proposal for their specific river basin, including any aspirations for future economic development opportunities for their country.

DERM also recognises that the establishment of effective, representative committees could also provide wider benefits for Indigenous engagement with industry, state and Commonwealth Governments, and for, potentially, identifying and progressing economic opportunities. Each IRG would need to be able to share information with the people of their country and communicate their views back to Government.

In effect, IRG members would be “messengers” for their people. Actual composition of the IRG would be determined by the people themselves. We have been told that as far as is possible the membership of an IRG would need to reflect traditional

ownership, native title and other Indigenous stakeholders within the relevant river basin.

Possible membership could include clan families, Homelands, Native Title PBC, Land Trusts, cultural heritage bodies, Local Councils, ORIC organisations, Land and Sea Centres, Indigenous business, gender groups etc.

It is our understanding that the IRGs would be established by the Minister with membership based on that local community advice, and that the IRGs would report directly to the Minister.

It is also our understanding that under the proposed arrangements, the Minister must respond to advice provided by the IRG and, importantly, provide reasons for any decision that is inconsistent with advice provided by the IRG.

The Queensland Government has told us that their intent in establishing the IRGs is to strengthen information sharing between the Government and Indigenous people on wild river related matters throughout the wild river declaration process and to also provide opportunities for Indigenous aspirations and cultural interests to be better reflected in wild river declarations.

We have also been told that another possible outcome of the IRG process will be identification of the economic development aspirations of the indigenous communities and that this may result in support to maintain and expand existing enterprises and to assist bring business opportunities to fruition.

As outlined in an earlier newsletter, Cape York NRM has adopted a policy which is based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which the Australian Government is a signatory.

One of those rights is control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources.

The underlying purpose of such recognition is the maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous institutions, cultures and traditions, and the promotion of their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs.

We also strongly support the principle that all landholders should be given the opportunity to have their voices heard when it comes to issues affecting them and their land.

We see the establishment of the IRG's as a positive initiative, and have agreed to work with DERM to establish the first three IRG's in the Watson, Coleman and Olive-Pascoe river basins as a ‘pilot’ to find out if the IRG idea will make a difference.

The proposed process is for Cape York NRM and DERM staff to hold meetings in the Coleman and Olive-Pascoe and Watson river basin areas each of the river basin.

The key objectives of the meetings will be:

- To inform traditional owners and Indigenous institutional landowners and Aboriginal shire councils of the purpose of the IRGs;
- To seek their views on an appropriate structure and nomination and selection process for Clan Estate member and institutional landowner and Council to representation on the IRG;
- To negotiate agreement between the Clan Estates and institutional landowners and Councils of each river basin on the best process for forming IRG's to ensure members represent the interests of Indigenous people of the proposed wild rivers area;
- To agree on how the IRGs in each basin will operate, and how best to involve persons recognised to speak for country in each of the basins;
- To assist people go through the IRG member nomination and selection process’;
- To prepare a request to the Minister for the appointment of proposed members to the IRG's for these three river basins.

The Minister would then appoint the IRG members and the first meeting of the 3 IRG's will be convened.

Cape York NRM would continue to support the IRG's for a period by providing administrative services such as arranging meetings, taking minutes, preparing reports and making sure IRG members are paid for their attendance at meetings.

For further information about the proposed Indigenous Reference Groups, contact Bob Frazer, Cape York NRM CEO on 0448724835, or John Locke, Manager, Indigenous Engagement Unit, DERM on 07 3224 7674

Get focused on ferals!

VERTEBRATE pests occur in all parts of Australia, causing major damage to wetlands, crops and agriculture, native bushland, rivers and waterways.

Many private and public land managers spend considerable time and resources managing the impacts of pest animals, which also cause significant social impacts among rural and urban communities.

To help raise awareness about pest animals and illustrate the damage that is being done across the country by pest animals, the Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) is running it's first-ever 'Feral Photos' photography competition.

They are looking for your photos showing pest animals in their habitat, the damage caused by pest animals and also photos that exhibit the various control methods that are available.

PHOTO: Andrew Bengsen



The Invasive Animals CRC Natural Resource Management Liaison Officer, Jessica Marsh hopes the photo competition will remind landholders, environmental staff, volunteers and members of the public about the widespread presence of pests and the importance of keeping a record of pest animal sightings and damage.

"I hope the competition encourages people to get out there and see what is happening in their environment and to get creative about how they can record and report on pest animals in their area"

Photos provide strong visual evidence of pest animal impact and if used continuously, can help land managers and government agencies to monitor changes across the landscape. There are great prizes up for grabs so make sure you visit www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos or contact Jessica for an entry pack on jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au

Be Natural Landcare Grants now open

LANDCARE Australia and Be Natural are pleased to launch a \$125,000 grants program that will provide funding to voluntary environmental community groups across Australia. This grants program will enable groups to continue their great work in tackling local environmental issues by providing funding to help with the continuation of on-going projects.

The Be Natural Landcare grants program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to 25 local groups to help with the projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months. Through the grants program, groups will also be encouraged to find innovative ways of attracting more volunteers to their group and projects.

http://www.landcareonline.com.au/news/archive/be-natural-landcare-grants-now-open/?utm_source=Landcare+Online%2C+Coast+Care+and+Junior+Landcare+eNewsletter&utm_campaign=290bde0c19-Junior_Landcarer_August_e-newsletter8_18_2011&utm_medium=email

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/resources/grants-and-funding/>



Reef Water Quality Protection Plan's first Report Card

THE First Report Card shows the Great Barrier Reef is in moderate condition overall. However, the report also identifies some areas of concern that justify the ongoing commitment to improve water quality and build resilience in the reef. The report sets a baseline against which progress towards the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009 goals and targets will be measured. (<http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/about/assets/reefplan-2009.pdf>) It is based on historical data and trends, and covers monitoring up to 2009—prior to the floods and cyclone. Monitoring is ongoing and the Second Report Card is due for release in 2012. The reef-wide summary, six regional summaries and technical report can be accessed at <http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/measuring-success/report-cards/first-report-card.aspx>

IN THE NEWS

Protection for Cape York Peninsula

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2011/mr20110908b.html>

CAPE York NRM are calling for individuals and organisations to become members. Members will provide input into our activities and help make the management decisions that support your way of life and the health of your country. Contact Janet on 1300 132 262 or jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au to receive a membership form.

South Cape York Catchments-leading the way in eradicating *Salvinia* in Cape York

By Jason Carroll

Coordinator South Cape York Catchments

THE aquatic plant *Salvinia molesta*, often described as the world's worst weed might have been knocked for a six on Cape York.

For the past three years, South Cape York Catchments (SCYC) has been engaged in one of the most ambitious *Salvinia* eradication projects ever undertaken in Australia at Lakeland.

To date the project has been very successful with no *Salvinia* found anywhere in the system since July 2011. Honey Dam has been clear of the weed since May 2009 and Bullhead Creek and the Laura River has been clear since July 2011.

A three-year monitoring period after the last plant has been found is required to ensure eradication.

Thanks to Caring for Our Country funding Bullhead Creek and the Laura River will be closely monitored to ensure that *Salvinia* does not come back.

Although there is still a considerable monitoring period ahead, we hope to be able to declare *Salvinia* eradicated from the Catchment by March 2014.

While SCYC control efforts have been concentrated on the

Lakeland infestation to protect the wetlands of Lakefield National Park, we are aware that *Salvinia* is still present in a number of ornamental ponds within Cook Shire.

Often the property owners are unaware they are harbouring this aggressive and environmentally damaging weed. Recently SCYC, with the assistance of property owners, removed *Salvinia* from residences in Cooktown.

SCYC would like to ask anyone who has this weed in fishponds or dams to please destroy it as transport and harbouring of *Salvinia* is illegal and a big environmental risk.

It is a wise choice to replace this plant with one of the many wonderful native aquatic plants common to our region.

Please examine these photographs carefully and if you think you have this plant on your property please dispose of it carefully or contact the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program on 40695020 or SCYC if you require assistance.

With the continued support of the people in the Cape we can avoid the Kakadu scenario where eradication is impossible, and millions of dollars, have been and will continue to be, spent on control measures of this invasive aquatic weed.



CAPE York Natural Resource Management now has a Facebook page. Log on to Facebook and search for Cape York Natural Resource Management and 'Like' to receive updates and news from Cape York NRM.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

CAPE York NRM are seeking stories and photos for this Newsletter from organisations and individuals promoting their activities in Cape York. Submit your article to media@capeyorknrm.com.au.

IN THE NEWS

Carbon credit plan fires burning ambitions

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-29/20110729/2815904>

Hazard mitigation on Cape York

By Jamie Haskell, Acting Area Director
QLD Fire and Rescue Service Rural Operations
Cairns Peninsula.

THE year 2011 was a great opportunity for Cape York land managers to implement Hazard Mitigation burns early in the season.

In 2009 there were many wild fires on Cape York resulting in a very large percentage of the land being consumed by fire.

In 2010 there was little opportunity to put in early burns.

First there was the weather, which was not favorable because the winds were strong and there were persistent showers, which made it next to impossible to find a window of opportunity to engage in controlled burns.

Every time there was an opportunity to burn there was either showers or strong winds, the showers made it hard to light and the winds made it impossible to control if you got it going.

Secondly there was little "old fuel" to use to get fires going early in the season.

With there being little old fuel you had to wait until the grass cured off enough to light which made it too late in the year with little dew to pull the burns up at night.

Farmers and Managers were hedging on the side of caution with the taste of the 2009 fires still fresh in their mind as many farmers had taken substantial losses with cattle dying from lack of food due to the wild fires consuming the year's reserves.

Luck was in the favour of the landholders though as the rain continued right through the year with early storms leading into the wet season.

This brings us to 2011 where the

fuel is plentiful, old and new, which meant we could start burning as soon as the old fuel dried.

QLD Fire and Rescue Service Rural Operations offered aerial incendiary for the purpose of mitigation burning to residence and communities in Cape York.

There were 20 odd properties that initiated burns from the plane.

All the burns were picture perfect in the sense there was very little evidence of fires carrying beyond the intended planned area.

Wherever there was a gully or creek the fires would pull up and not carry any further.

Weather was on our side with generally light winds.

Aerial burning at the right time under the right conditions is a very economical way of establishing fire breaks and can be very passive and friendly.

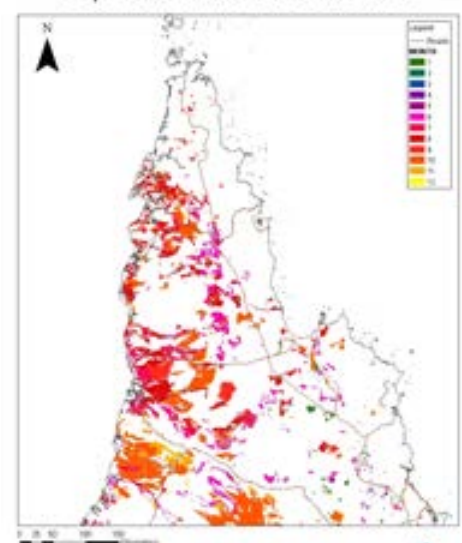
Although this isn't the only method of burning, it provides an opportunity where other alternatives are restrictive, for example burning in inaccessible country.

Local knowledge is very important along with fire history for the area to be burnt.

Cape York Sustainable Futures provides maps and fire history for the burning which is invaluable when calculating and planning the burns.

Lets hope our work this year has a positive outcome. Fire knows no boundary's when it comes to a line on a map so communication between neighbors' is paramount, and as a great man once told me "Fire isn't the problem it is people" so if we work together we should get some terrific results.

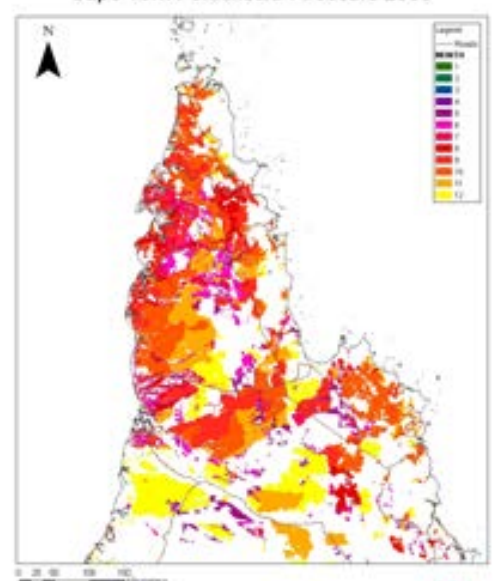
Cape York Peninsula Firescars 2010



Map produced by Joanne Spring for CYP Fire Management Project 1602001
info@cyp.com.au



Cape York Peninsula Firescars 2009



Map produced by Joanne Spring for CYP Fire Management Project 1602001
info@cyp.com.au



LIVE Export

Practical Recovery and Restructure Forum



By Noeline Ikin, CEO, Northern Gulf Resource Management Group.

THE campaign to ban live export and later decision by government to implement a ban on live cattle export to Indonesia is for many in our gulf region a devastating blow.

The impact and long term burden to our remote communities brought about by this ban is now combined with the impacts to the region from cyclone Yasi, the 2009 floods, increasing production costs, increasing property prices and debt levels, a high Australian dollar and ever increasing legislation.

People in our region are ready now, more than ever, to take action.

A forum was organised at Georgetown on the 12th August and strongly attended by rural bank managers, graziers and senior state government bureaucrats.

Bob Katter, along with a couple of Mayors and the Chair of the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, John Bethel, had the idea that outside of the political arena we had better have a hard look at the state of the grazing industry, debt issues, and practical ways to restructure business and support to rural industries to keep them alive. Like the foundations

of a home, rural industries are the foundation of our economy.

Thus when these foundations start to crumble the entire home is at risk. Our entire region, regardless of primary income, needs a vibrant and profitable grazing industry in order to function.

The grazing industry in North Queensland contributes some \$700 million dollars into our economy annually, and if the retail dollars were included this could almost double the annual economic influence.

The forum looked at the levels of action from the grazier, banks, regional organisations, Local Government, State Government and the Australian Government.

Actions were aligned with people and organisations with the responsibility to see those actions through.

A committee of local people was formed to ensure that all the hard work of the day was not lost, but to also guide ongoing work and facilitate our region to keep coming up with practical ways to help ourselves and drive those that make decisions that affect us in the right direction.

Just some of the actions identified included:

- Explore ways to reduce production costs, this was

further discussed with trends showing that grazing businesses that keep good records and manage input costs have better profit margins

- Organisations such as Governments and Banks could improve extension and support services to the industry in the fields of finance and succession
- The limitations under the Vegetation Management Act
- Actions to explore alternative markets and income sources was also identified and need to be fully explored

Overall, the forum was positive with actions that are achievable.

In the long term however, to prevent our region constantly being put in these difficult positions, it was discussed and actions were proposed to better connect with government, bureaucrats and the wider public. We need to help these people better understand our region, our role and our connection to the very things they seem to want but hinder our region in achieving through poor advice or understanding.

Cape York NRM was represented at the meeting by Director Dick Foster.

A full report is available at http://northerngulf.com.au/stay_informed.html

Cape York Natural Resource Management is a community owned organisation helping the people of Cape York to build resilient communities and healthy country by supporting natural and cultural resource management and economic development such as sustainable agriculture.

Communicating fire and creating change



By Peta-Marie Standley

Fire Research Coordinator, Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways

70 people gathered at Hahn River Roadhouse to experience and deliver an Indigenous led fire workshop on Kuku Thaypan Country for five days in July this year.

The workshop promoted the spirit of “working together” to help improve fire management in Australia with a focus on Cape York.

The TKRP Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways Program hosted by Mulong Pty Ltd an Indigenous Multi-media and Production Company co-delivered the training workshop with Senior Kuku Thaypan Elder Dr. Tommy George, younger clan members from the George, Musgrave and Ross families.

The workshop provided opportunity to acknowledge and share the efforts of the Kuku Thaypan Fire Management Research Project and co-generative research thesis “The Importance of Campfires to effective conservation.” These projects were initiated, led and co-generated by Snr. Kuku Thaypan Elder Dr. Tommy George and the late old man Musgrave.

Training was delivered in practically implementing Kuku Thaypan Fire Management principles, Indigenous research methodologies, vegetation survey techniques and GPS. The TKRP fire mentorship and training program is designed to bring people together from different locations and communities, to share and learn about Indigenous fire practices and their application to contemporary management.

The program is held at nominated areas and is an effective event that brings different land users and

managers together to develop a greater understanding of fire practices from Indigenous knowledge experiences. A team of experienced Indigenous fire practitioners deliver the program supported by western management experts that combine to deliver an effective methodology for applying traditional fire practices in contemporary management settings.

“Had a fantastic time and can not wait to share what we have learnt with our community back home. We will build on that cup of knowledge and implement our own burns in the near future.” Donna Mitsch Wodonga

Training focused on practical demonstration and participation in planning and implementing a Traditional ecological burn, Indigenous research methodologies and methods, western research methods and tools and digital communication skills.

Accredited training was available for two units of a Certificate three and four in conservation and land management planning on country during the workshop.

“My look at life has changed, my mind set has changed. Knowledge is power and I’m certainly walking away to go back home and try to start practicing the methods I have been taught. Fantastic week. Thankyou” Derek Murray Albury, NSW

The workshop was enabled by funding and logistical support led by Mulong Pty Ltd through partnerships with Cape York Natural Resource Management, Q2 program Queensland Government, OZ tours, Gudjulk consulting, On-country

training, James Cook University, NSW Firesticks Project DECWA, University of Technology Sydney and Hahn River Roadhouse.

Participants ranged from near and far with Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria, NSW and Victoria represented. Indigenous and non-Indigenous fire practitioners, researchers and professional experts from community, Government, NGO and Institutional education sectors attended.

Organisations represented include Napranum Rangers, Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation Wild River Rangers, Northern Gulf Indigenous Savanna Group, Normanton Wild River Rangers - Kurtjar Clan, Kurtja Corporation, Kuku Yalanji, Lachlan Catchment Management Authority NSW, Cubbitch Barta Native Title Corporation, Woomera Aboriginal Corporation, James Cook University the Cairns Institute, CSIRO, University of Technology Sydney, DERM Australian Tropical Herbarium, Firescape Science Skyview Solutions, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, North East Cultural Heritage Committee NSW, DSE Victoria Cultural Heritage officer, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Rural Fire Service Association, Fire and Rescue Rural Fire Service NSW, New South Wales Rural Fire Service Far South Coast, Parks Australia Booderee National Park, Wreck Bay Aboriginal Council, Wreck Bay Rural Fire Service, Biamunga National Park, NSW Department of Environment Conservation, Gudjuk Consultancy, and Cape York Sustainable Futures.

Land Management funding available

By Isha Segboer, Reef Rescue Project Manager, Cape York Sustainable Futures

IT is now the fourth year of the Reef Rescue devolved grants program on Cape York Peninsula, and funds are available for both Graziers and Horticulturalists to implement practices aimed at improving the quality of water draining into the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon. Landholders can apply for grants up to \$40,000, and larger grants will be considered for exceptional projects, or just exceptionally large projects.

Grazing projects to manage soil erosion are a priority for this round, and some of the activities funded so far include:

- fencing of waterways and provision of off-stream water points (dam or trough; cattle needn't be excluded all together, could be spelled during wet);
- fencing to land types, and divisional fencing, for rotational grazing and spelling;
- extra water points to spread out grazing pressure;
- track maintenance;
- gully remediation;
- fire management plans; and
- feral animal control.

Horticulturalists can apply for a range of machinery and equipment, so long as it will help reduce the amount of nutrients, pesticides, and herbicides in farm runoff. Some of the things funded have been:

- bale busters/ripper for mulching;
- spreaders for compost, manure, and other soil conditioners;
- soil moisture monitoring equipment,
- compost tea brewers;
- fertigation systems;
- nutrient/sediment detention basin;
- keyline plough.

Training workshops are also a large part of the program, and these are free.

Pasture and stock monitoring workshops are planned for later in the year, and these will include information on lick management and rotational grazing.

A horticulture field trip and other workshops are also being planned.

Anyone interested in applying for Reef Rescue grants, or being informed about upcoming training workshops, should contact Isha Segboer of Cape York Sustainable Futures on 40532865, 0447747687 and isha.segboer@cysf.com.au

Grader workshop on Butcher's Hill Station



New Bill improves protection of Queensland primary production

A new Bill has been introduced that the government hopes will reduce red tape, strengthen biosecurity and enhance primary production in Queensland.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies Tim Mulherin said six individual Acts will be amended to ensure they operate more effectively under the Protecting Primary Production Amendment Bill 2011, which was introduced into

Queensland Parliament this week.

Amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 will enhance biosecurity emergency responses and provide benefits to vets and animal owners.

Amendments to the other five Acts, including the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, the Land Protection Act 1989, the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act

1994 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, will streamline administration and deliver legislative requirements. For further information visit <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=76419>

For information on the above mentioned acts visit <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/>



The Cape York Fire Management Project

By Bryan Cifuentes Fire Projects Manager
Cape York Sustainable Futures

THE Cape York Fire Project is in its 12th year of operation with financial assistance received from the State and Federal Governments.

Originally conceived to plot and map fire activity in the Cape, the project soon took on other tasks that led to developing a sound base for sustainable fire management strategies and practices across the region.

This project provides satellite fire tracking and mapping services, promoting best practice fire management in Cape York.

The program has improved coordination and cooperation between stakeholders across all land tenures and also delivers training to landholders and managers on Cape York in use of the technology and development of holistic fire management.

Project Staff have been involved in Remote Sensing and GIS for over a decade, and pioneered the use of satellite data for fire control and land management in Queensland. CYSF combined these two disciplines to form a highly capable management tool for remote area and reserves, focusing on sustainable environmental management. GIS and Remote Sensing are core tools for regional management, where the cost of providing on-ground monitoring is prohibitive or access is limited.

The following activities are undertaken in association with the fire management project:

- Monitoring fire through Satellite imagery for the early warning North Australian Fire Information site (NAFI)
- Conducting fire history studies facilitated by imagery sourced from the GLOVIS Landsat reference set for vegetation management, property management, carbon studies and grazing community regional fire plans
- Providing custom mapping services for customer specified management purposes
- Producing flight path maps and flight coordinates for aerial surveys and the QFRS aerial incendiary program
- Providing special needs publications for training in spatial and geospatial applications, which include high

end applications such as ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine. These training programs have been adopted by the Qld NRM bodies and are currently delivered state-wide via the RGC.

- Providing GPS and Google Earth application training to Rangers and field officers at a level commensurate with the capacity of the officers. The training is tailored for special needs where required.

Landholders and Indigenous land managers can use these skills to plan for a more secure future.



Fire and Biodiversity Project

THE Cape York Fire and Biodiversity Project commenced in 2008 designed to build the local communities capacity to manage and maintain heritage and biodiversity values of Cape York Peninsula.

It works with Traditional Owners, pastoralists and managers of conservation lands, using adaptive management to address landscape scale fire management across Cape York.

The project integrates remote sensing techniques for historical and real time fire mapping with current biodiversity information collected with the help of local people that will be directly applicable to their land. This information equips land managers with the knowledge and capacity to strategically manage fire for biodiversity and production outcomes, to integrate with traditional knowledge based management practices applied by indigenous communities and to monitor the impact of fire on important biodiversity and land management values.

For further information telephone 40532856 or visit www.cysf.com.au

A chance to plan for Country – funding available

Funding is available to assist Traditional Owners with the resources; tools and information they need to do a plan for their country and make a decision about whether they want to explore World Heritage as an option.

Funding will be provided in two stages:

Stage 1 — Funding provided to Indigenous-based organisations to prepare an engagement and on-country planning proposal with a consultant of their choice.

Stage 2 — If the proposal is accepted by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, additional funding will be available to do the country planning work. This process is new to both Government and Traditional Owners, so a lot of it will be worked out with individual

groups on the ground.

Agreement to participate in this funding arrangement does not indicate consent for World Heritage listing. Traditional Owners can keep their country plan, even if they decide that they do not want to go ahead with World Heritage.

The diagram below outlines the major steps in the funding opportunity.

For information about funding for Indigenous groups contact Kasia from DERM on (07) 4222 5202.

For more information visit www.derm.qld.gov.au/cape_york or contact the Cape York Peninsula World Heritage team at DERM on 07 4222 5239 or consultation.cypwh@derm.qld.gov.au

How to get involved

A chance to make a decision about your country and World Heritage.

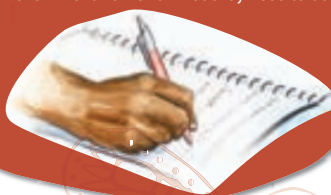
1

Interested Traditional Owners and Indigenous Organisations that speak for country meet with Government to talk about how they want to be involved.



2

If Traditional Owners want to get involved and do some planning for country, they tell Government how and what they need to do it.



3

Government provides funding and support for Traditional Owners to do some country planning that:

- Records cultural and natural values and threats
- Identifies aspirations for country
- Explores different management options
- Includes a decision about World Heritage.



4

Traditional Owners tell Government about their decision.

World Heritage - Yes or No?

If yes

Traditional Owners and the Government work together to develop a World Heritage nomination using the plan.



If no

Traditional Owners can use the plan for management of country.



The Board of the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association is seeking nominations for the AUSMEPA Environmental Award for 2011/2012.

The AUSMEPA Environment Award is presented to worthy recipients to recognise and promote achievements, innovation and best practice in minimising marine pollution and the protection of the marine environment. The AUSMEPA Environmental Award can be awarded to individuals, community groups, businesses and government agencies or departments. Nominations are sought from the environmental community as well as business and other organisations. Nominations close 30 September 2011. For details visit http://www.ausmepa.org.au/news/Nominations-are-sought-for-the-AUSMEPA-Environmental-Award-20102012_604.htm

REGISTER YOUR DETAILS:

A regional contacts page on our website will provide details for regional staff, organisations, local governments, ranger groups and education bodies working in Cape York. To be included, email your contact details to media@capeyorknrm.com.au.

RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Members will automatically receive a newsletter, otherwise you must register by emailing media@capeyorknrm.com.au or call 40696979 and specify 'hardcopy or electronic'.

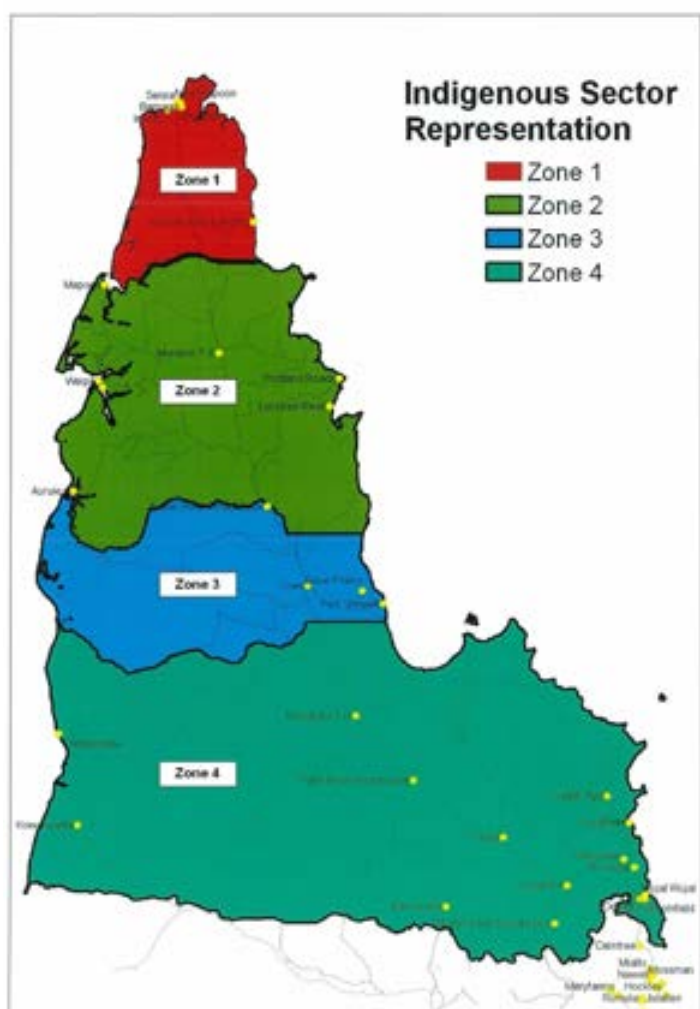
ADVERTISE HERE:

Promote your business or organisation by advertising in the Cape York NRM Healthy Country Newsletter. Contact Amanda Hogbin on media@capeyorknrm.com.au or 40696979 for details.

Board Members

NAME	LOCATION	DIRECTORSHIP	EMAIL
Donald De Busch	Coen	Indigenous Sector Zone 3	don.debusch@gmail.com
Joseph Elu	Seisia	Local Government Sector and Chairman	Joseph.Elu@nparc.qld.gov.au
Dick Foster	Weipa	Tourism, Other Industries & Small Business Sector	eclipseozdick@bigpond.com
John Giese	Cooktown	Community Sector	giese@top.net.au
Peter Inderbitzin	Lakeland	Primary Industry Sector	peter@swissfarms.com.au
Barry Lyon	Weipa	Conservation Sector	barry@australiazoo.com.au
Blade Omeenyo	Lockhart River	Indigenous Sector Zone 2	land-sea@lockhart.qld.gov.au
Richard Tamwoy	Bamaga	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	rtrwy@hotmail.com
Desmond Tayley	Wujal Wujal	Indigenous Sector Zone 4	mayor@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au
Reg Williams	Bamaga	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	reg.williams@nparc.qld.gov.au

Cape York Ranger Groups



THE North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance is collating the details of North Australian Indigenous Ranger Groups on one map. To view the map and Ranger groups visit <http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/srm.html>

Landcare Funding

THE National Landcare Facilitator, Brett de Hayr has welcomed the announcement of over \$31 million in funding for Landcare related projects by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Joe Ludwig, which will help to find new solutions to old problems.

Mr de Hayr said "The funding will go to 116 Landcare related projects across the country covering sustainable agriculture and pest and weed management. Importantly a range of projects have been funded that are delivered by community and industry groups which are a vital part of the Landcare movement". For more information visit www.nrm.gov.au

Cape York Natural Resource Management

CSIRO Complex 47-49 Maunds Road PO Box 907 Atherton QLD 4883 Ph: 1300 132 262

Edited by Cape York Media and Events

Cooktown (07) 40 696 979

amhogbin@gmail.com



CARING
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OUR
COUNTRY



Q2
Coasts
and
Country

This project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding from the Queensland Government's Q2 Coasts and Country and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Programs.