

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

October 2008



CHRRUP

Useful Links

There has been quite a lot of discussion in the press lately regarding entry onto properties for mineral exploration, and the differing land uses required by mining entities and the agricultural land owners. To assist local landholders to access information about their rights and responsibilities in relation to mining and exploration leases, two website addresses are provided below. These links contain broader information for landholders who want to know more about the environment they are in when working with mining and petroleum entities. One is a link to the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy website and the other is on the Canegrowers website. The Canegrowers article is quite a useful and comprehensive document that covers areas beyond this discussion. All information is public and downloadable in PDF format. They are not overly large documents and should be accessible using most connections with a bit of time and patience.

http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/land_owner_occupier_information.cfm
and

<http://www.canegrowers.com.au/docs/publications/legal-guide-primary-producers-apr08.pdf>

We will try to provide more useful links in the future on other relevant topics.

Rangelands Conference

Bronwyn Roberts represented CHRRUP at the Australian Rangelands Conference, which was held in Charters Towers from 28 September to 02 October. Organisers were pleased with the attendance, with delegates attending from around Australia and overseas. The conference theme was 'A Climate of Change' and discussed the following topics: Capacity building and social issues in rangelands; Grazing management; Land condition and monitoring in rangelands; Biodiversity management and conservation in rangelands; R&D in rangelands; Multiple use and restoration in rangelands and structured poster viewing sessions held each afternoon.

There were several field trips available which included the Toomba wetlands nature refuge, Dalrymple National Park, Ravenswood and the Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA). There was also a trip to Kirkton Station to view mechanical control (cutter bar) of significant areas of Chinese apple and rubbervine. A highlight for Bronwyn was the trip to the Wambiana Grazing Project which is a tribute to the work of the DPI&F and the landholders involved. The trials were very enlightening and reinforced what a number of graziers and members of the NRM community already know about the affects of different grazing pressures.

Environmental Targets

One million additional hectares of native habitat will be protected and farmers will be better supported to continue improving land management under ambitious environmental targets set by the Australian Government for the \$2.25 billion *Caring for our Country* program.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Peter Garrett, and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke announced the targets.

Specific five-year outcomes across the program's six national priority areas include: increasing the size of the protected-area estate under the National Reserve System to 125 million hectares;

increasing the area of native habitat and vegetation managed to reduce critical threats to biodiversity by at least one million hectares; reducing the impact of invasive species and maintain viable Tasmanian Devil populations; assisting at least 30 per cent of Australian farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices;

contributing to at least 30 partnerships with Indigenous groups and at least five major regional partnerships.

Minister Burke said 'Caring for our Country' will also have a strong emphasis on larger projects that bring together primary producers, regional natural resource management organisations, agri-businesses, researchers and scientists, community groups and all levels of

Date Claimers

28 October – 'Help Manage the Pressures of Farming' workshop. 9AM-11:30, Emerald Town Hall. Free entry, morning tea provided. RSVP to Emma McCullagh 4982 4233. A *Mental Health Support for Drought Affected Communities* Initiative organised by Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise and CQ Division of GPs.

5 November – 'Healthy Families Forum'. 9-12, Rolleston Town Hall. Free entry, morning tea provided. Topics will include nutrition, exercise, bullying & peer pressure, drugs & alcohol, and dealing with stress. RSVP to Qld Health, 4983 9700.

17 November – Governance Training, 'Strategic Planning'. 8:30-3:30 at AACC Conference Room. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

18 November – CHRRUP Board Meeting, AACC Conference Room.

government. The next step in the delivery of Caring for our Country is the release of the business plan later this year, outlining short-term targets for each outcome and inviting proposals for funding against the strategic objectives set out in these outcome statements.

Telstra Environment Awards

Ten News and partner Telstra want to reward and recognise communities who are doing their bit to help the environment, and together they are offering a monthly award of \$2000 in each state. This prize is open to anyone including schools, individuals, community groups and small businesses, who are involved in initiatives such as recycling, water conservation, waste cleanup, wildlife preservation, or bush and waterway regeneration. The monthly deadline is the last Friday of each month, so if you are aware of a school or group who are interested in these activities, please let them know they may be eligible for funding! For further details and entry forms, see the website http://ten.com.au/tv_environmentawards.html

AACC Short Courses

AACC (Emerald Campus) are running ChemCert accreditation (including a refresher) courses in November.

The dates are:

ChemCert Accreditation (2 day) – 26th & 27th November

ChemCert Refresher (1 day) – 27th November

These courses are of particular interest to those involved in the Cotton BMP program, or with a requirement to purchase Endosulfan, or anyone whose 5-year spray accreditation may be due to lapse.

Keeping Place for Emerald

A permanent Keeping Place in the Emerald Botanic Gardens has been established to preserve artefacts from earlier Aboriginal generations. Opened by in September by Ensham Resources, the Keeping Place holds artefacts discovered as part of a cultural heritage survey and comprehensive Cultural Heritage Management Plan at Ensham. Ensham's Cultural Heritage Management Plan involved negotiating agreements and understandings with local Aboriginal groups about how to identify and treat items of cultural significance found on Ensham's mining lease. The process also involved Ensham's staff learning about Aboriginal heritage with the assistance of local Aboriginal representatives.

Eyes in Sky Over Reef

Satellite imagery has become an important tool in catchment management, and is about to provide assistance in the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef. In a project jointly funded by Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM and the Fitzroy Basin

Association, satellite imagery has provided information to land holders in Great Barrier Reef catchments, and this information is now being monitored by a team of experts from the Queensland Government and CSIRO. By using images of the catchments taken over the past 10 or 20 years, scientists can get a good picture of the downstream effects of floods, droughts, clearing or revegetation. This knowledge can then assist landholders make management decisions to limit the amount of sediments and nutrients entering the system.

Nogoa News

I have been busy doing completions and checking on everyone's projects that are still active and doing up projects for the new PNC- Billaboo.

The Grains BMP Pilot Program half-day consultations with 'ASK GB' appear to have been well received, with a good response from all involved. Reports for each landholder are on their way.

We are in the process of organizing when we will get stuck into the next modules, so we will be contacting landholders after harvest to find a suitable time to get together again. Thank you to all the landholders who have been involved – your input is imperative so we can make the system work for everyone. Thanks again.

I am off to the Veg Futures Conference in Toowoomba from the 20-23rd October, so more about that next newsletter.

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer, 0427 320 539.

Comet Tales

Susie will be out of the office until the beginning of November, in the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact the CHRRUP office.

Susie Bate, Comet Catchment Field Officer, 0427 326 400.

Belyando Byline

I recently attended the Australian Rangelands Conference in Charters Towers which was great. It was an excellent opportunity to meet people and broaden my knowledge on different aspects of rangelands management and development.

I have now received most of the BSIG voting forms so will now proceed to arrange a final BSIG meeting to pass the special resolution to voluntarily wind up the associated incorporation. An agenda will be sent to all members shortly. I have been busy contacting all landholder involved with projects to get an update on their status and from this have booked a number of completion report visits which is great!

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