



Media release

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Broadsound brainstorm provides direction

Around 30 people brainstormed ways to restore and protect the Broadsound environment at a workshop at the Marlborough Hotel last week.

Invited stakeholders, including landholders and agency staff, met to discuss a number of proposals from a new report funded by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA).

FBA Biodiversity Coordinator Graham Lightbody said two years of research went into producing the 'Landscape Condition in the Broadsound Basin' report, which was designed to guide investment in natural resource management.

"The report gives us a much clearer picture of the state of natural resources in Broadsound, and suggests areas for improvement that FBA and other agencies could fund," Mr Lightbody said.

"It was important for us to present the report to people affected at the ground level to get their feedback on how such improvements might be put in place."

The report was prepared on FBA's behalf by Alistair Melzer from the Centre for Environmental Management at Central Queensland University and Roger Jaensch of Wetlands International.

Both authors were on hand at the workshop to share information from the report, answer questions, and participate in a brainstorming session with the group.

Mr Lightbody said ideas generated from the workshop included financial incentives to help landholders improve land management, investigating carbon offsetting associated with the recovery of regrowth vegetation, and encouraging tourism based on the region's natural and historical attractions.

"The workshop helped identified a way forward, which could include restoration work, exploring new markets and partnerships, and collaborations to improve resilience for the future," he said.

"The report highlights the region's rich natural assets, including wetlands of national and international significance, but it also shows that there is more work to be done to reduce environmental impacts on those assets.

"FBA, together with our sub regional group Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc., look forward to working with the community to explore ideas raised at the workshop further."

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